

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

1 Henry Street

TYPE

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

TITLE

EXISTING DESIGNATION

HBR [] GBR [] AHC [] NT [] VAS []

STREETSCAPE LEVEL

1 [] 2 [] 3 [X]
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 July 91.
NEG FILE 11-33, 34
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 1881.
Architect Billing & Son.
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 []

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden []

1 HENRY STREET

History

In October 1881 the distinguished architectural firm of Nathaniel Billing and Son called tenders "for erecting two storey brick villa at Hawthorn for A.J. Smith".¹ This was the residence now known as 1 Henry Street, which was recorded for the first time in the 1882-83 Hawthorn rate book as house and land owned and occupied by A.J. Smith, NAV 100 pounds.² Smith, a bookseller, owned a more modest Henry Street house already, probably No. 5, described in 1867 as a house of six rooms and garden, NAV 56 pounds.³ When Smith's new house was completed, he let his earlier house to various tenants including Henry Gardner, Ironmonger, in 1882⁴ and R.J. Martin, merchant, in 1884.⁵ By 1887 the rated value of Smith's new house had risen to 120 pounds.⁶ Smith soon let this house, too, in 1889-90 to E.J. Powell, Hawthorn's Town Clerk.⁷ It was described as a brick house of eight rooms in 1890 and of eleven rooms in 1893-94, when it was owned still by Smith.⁸ By 1896-97, Smith owned three Henry Street houses. No. 5, a brick house of eight rooms, still with an NAV of 56 pounds, was let to Julia Bolger. Nos. 1 and 3 were let to Frederick White and James Buttle, drapers. No. 3 was a wood house of eight rooms, NAV 22 pounds.⁹

A turn of the century M.M.B.W. drainage plan shows Smith's three properties. No. 1 Henry Street, on the Liddiard Street corner, has verandahs at its front and back with a long, curving carriage drive from a stable building in Liddiard Street to the Henry Street entrance. There are ornately-designed garden areas within its large grounds. Nos. 3 and 5, more modest buildings, also have garden settings but on a smaller scale.¹⁰

Description

A simply detailed two storey rendered garden villa on bluestone footings of typical bayed 1880s form. The faceted bay projection incorporates an unusual geometric render pattern to the dado below first floor sill height. Simple, but elegant render detailing is also used at the eaves string course, and as

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1. *Argus* 13 October 1881(12).
 2. Hawthorn RB 1882-83 No. 1644.
 3. *Ibid.* 1867-68. No. 403.
 4. *Ibid.* 1882-83 No. 1645.
 5. *Ibid.* 1884-85 No. 1163.
 6. *Ibid.* 1887-88. No. 2165.
 7. *Ibid.* 1890-91 No. 2917.
 8. *Ibid.* 1893-94 No. 3900.
 9. *Ibid.* 1896-97. No. 3886 (No. 5), 3887 (No. 3), 3888 (No. 1).
 10. M.M.B.W. Drainage Plan. *Hawthorn*. No. 1498 (1901).

1 Henry Street continued

a corner moulding to openings. The verandah is divided into three bays. A timber frieze frame is used on both floors and standard pattern cast iron used for the "straight" and brackets.

On the side elevation at first floor level is a timber oriel with medieval panel details, probably a later addition.

The once extensive garden appears to have been completely lost.

Assesement

The architect Nathaniel Billings and Son had already established a substantial practice in Melbourne and the western district with churches and banks as major clients. The commission of this firm indicates a high status house. The simple form belies its significance however. This form type became common in the 1880s, e.g. 12 Goodall Street but would have been quite a new style in 1881 when tenders were called. The bay projection was not appropriate for large row house construction. Crouch and Wilsons design of the same date for 166 Victoria Parade, which incorporated bay windows but a full width verandah was the standard mansion format in the inner city, even on large blocks. Architect Norman Hitchcock's boom style single storey row house of 1883 is an early inclusion of the bayed form used at Henry Street.

The bay form seems to be a reduction from mansion house design, rather than an adaptation of large row house form. There are a number of examples of mansion housing of this type from the 1870s, including 7 Carmen Ave., Toorak of 1879 by F.M. White and John Beswicke undertook several buildings in similar form at Harcourt Street. These examples utilize a colonnaded verandah form however, not the light weight cast iron design seen at Henry Street and at 70 Albert Street.

Gothic revival buildings often used a similar basic form type but with a gabled projection rather than the faceted bay and a timber verandah rather than cast iron.

Billings design at Henry Street is an early collation of the cast iron verandah, so common in inner urban designs, with the Melbourne mansion house form which developed in the 1870s. Many buildings in the garden suburbs subsequently adopt this arrangement.

Significance

Metropolitan

1. Architecturally significant for the early use of a reduced version of the 1870s Melbourne mansion house with a cast iron verandah. This form type became very common in Hawthorn in the 1880s and 1890s.
2. Associated with the eminent architect Billings and with early Hawthorn resident A.J. Smith.



1 Henry Street