

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

26 Kaayongkoot Road

TYPE

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

TITLE

"Crossakiel"

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 Oct. 91
NEG FILE 28.26.
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 1886.
Architect Harry B. Gibbs.
Builder
Elements



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

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY	Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONDITION	Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Fair	<input type="checkbox"/>		Fair	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>		Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden []

26 KOOYONGKOOT ROAD

"CROSSAKIEL"

History

This grand two-storeyed brick house, which once stood in extensive grounds and still has a large garden, was the home in the 1880s boom years of two important Victorian merchants, Richard Guthridge and Randal J. Alcock. Its design was based on the third prize winning entry in the 1884 Grace Park Syndicate architectural competition for a villa in the 1250 pounds category submitted by the architect, Henry Browse Gibbs. The proposed residence was to have no more than nine rooms.¹⁹ Following his win, in September 1885 Gibbs called tenders for a "two storey residence at Hawthorn for R. Guthridge".²⁰ It was recorded in the 1886-87 Hawthorn rate book that a house on the west side of Kooyongkoot Road was owned and occupied by Richard Guthridge, merchant, NAV 140 pounds.²¹ The previous year, Guthridge's vacant land in Kooyongkoot Road had an NAV of only 45 pounds.²² Guthridge was a partner in the firm Guthridge, Power and Co., importers of saddler's ironmongery and manufacturers of saddlery with offices at 46 Lonsdale Street East.²³

An auction notice in the *Argus* in November 1886 seems to relate to the sale of "Crossakiel". An eight-roomed villa at Upper Hawthorn, an "Elegant house on grounds of 2 acres", was offered for sale. It was noted that the house had been built under the supervision of Mr. Gibbs, architect.²⁴ By 1888, Guthridge's house had become the property of Randal J. Alcock, merchant.²⁵ From 1887 Guthridge lived in a two-storeyed house at 5 Eric Street within the prestigious Grace Park subdivision, a residence also most probably designed by Gibbs.²⁶ Alcock, the new owner of "Crossakiel", was a partner in the firm Service and Co., importers and general merchants with offices in Collins Street. The Hon. James Service, MLC, who founded the firm, played a major role in land speculation during the 1880s. Service had been in Parliament since 1857 and became Premier of Victoria. He was a large shareholder and director of the Commercial Bank, which crashed badly because of its "lavish advice to speculators". Service was also a director of the City Road Property Co. Ltd. which, according to Cannon, because of its "curious methods of

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19. *Australasian Sketcher* 30 June 1884 (contains article and sketches of the prize winning entries).
 20. *Argus* 26 Sept. 1885 (p. 6).
 21. Hawthorn RB 1886-87 No. 2932.
 22. *Ibid.*
 23. 1887 Melbourne Directory.
 24. *Argus* 4 November 1886. (p.7).
 25. Hawthorn RB. 1888-89 No. 4762.
 26. *Ibid.* 1887-88. No. 1326.