PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

47 Lisson Grove

TITLE
"Valetta" ("Eyrecourt" previously)

TYPE

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

EXISTING DESIGNATION   HBR [ ]   GBR [ ]   AHC [ ]   NT [ ]   VAS [ ]

STREETSCAPE LEVEL   1 [ ]   2 [X]   3 [ ]
                         SIGNIFICANT [ ] SIGNIFICANT [X]
                         STREET TREES   KERB & GUTTERS

GRADING   A [ ]   B [X]   C [ ]   D [ ]   E [ ]
                         KEYNOTE BUILDING [ ]

RECOMMENDED FOR   HBR/GBR [ ]   AHC [X]   URBAN CONSERVATION AREA [ ]
                         VAS [ ]   PLANNING SCHEME PROTECTION [X]
                         CULTURAL LANDSCAPE [ ] OTHER [ ]

SURVEY DATE *Oct. 91.*
NEG FILE   *26.19.*
Title
Vol.
Fol.

THEME
[ ] Early Settlement
[ ] Mansions
[X] Victorian Garden
    Suburb
[ ] Municipal dev.
[ ] 1870s growth
[X] Garden villas
[ ] Working enclaves
[ ] Commercial Centres
[ ] Edwardian Prosperity
[ ] Interwar Housing
[ ] Flats and Offices

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
Date *1888*
Architect *Inskip & Robertson*
Builder *Plowman & Hill.*
Elements —
House, garden.

[ ] Contributing garden   [ ] Original or early hard landscape layout
[ ] Landmark tree   [ ] Original or early fence

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY   Good [X]   CONDITION   Good [X]
            Fair [ ]   Fair [ ]
            Poor [ ]   Poor [ ]
Note: fence probably new.
CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION
Associated significant garden   [ ]

The site information given above has been determined from external street level inspection.

47 LISSON GROVE

"VALETTA" (PREV. "EYRECOURT")

History

This grand two-storeyed brick villa with its steep roof and tall square chimneys, once known as No. 33 and named "Eyrecourt", was designed in 1888 by the architectural firm Inskip and Robertson for Mrs. Jane Kinsella. The builders were Plowman and Hill.[11] The firm Inskip and Robertson designed many notable houses, banks, commercial buildings and hospitals in Melbourne during the 1880s and 1890s.[12] By the 1890s, Lisson Grove had become Hawthorn's most fashionable avenue - a quiet tree-lined street of fine residences (often architect-designed) in large gardens with coach houses, summer houses and tennis courts.[13]

Description

A substantial Hawthorn brown brick, two storey villa. The building adopted the common "L" shaped form, with hipped projections at each end of the "L". The walls are polychrome in brown, cream and red. Bands of cream occur at an implied springing point to the flat arch windows, and at sill level. The simple windows are further elaborated by red arches and cream abutment blocks. Rendered string courses define the parapet to a shallow bay on the ground floor projecting wing. The overall impression is sombre and restrained.

Assessment

Inskip, when with Inskip and Butler from 1896-1906, was at the forefront of avant-garde design. His earlier period with Robertson from 1888-1893 was prolific, completing works for commercial and residential projects and for hospitals. This building does not break new ground architecturally, although the absence of applied detailing and the incorporation of decorative patterns in the brick work does forecast the simple wall surfaces of Butler and the key players in the development of the domestic Queen Anne style.

The use of polychrome in such a restrained fashion is atypical for the 1880s. When used at this time the general pattern is zigzag quoining. Alternatively the polychrome is combined with extensive render mouldings as at Beswicke's shops 144-148 Auburn Road of 1889-90 and Prockter's restrained villa at 22 Lisson Grove of 1887. The exuberance of A.A. Fritsch's polychrome as at 13 and 19 Lyndhurst Cres., both 1889, is reflected in the vernacular usage. This is equally at odds with the almost flat plane approach to colour usage on Valetta.

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11. *ABCN* 21 April 1888 (acceptance of tender for erection of villa residence, Lisson Grove, Hawthorn, for Mrs. Kinsella).

12. Miles Lewis, "Australian Architectural Index", Univ. of Melb., 1977+.

13. Gwen McWilliam, <u>Lisson Grove</u>, Street Walk VI, Hawthorn Historical Society, 1989.

47 Lisson Grove continued

Significance   Metropolitan

1.   Architecturally significant for the atypical polychrome treatment which
      utilizes a flat plane approach to the use of colour.

2.   Historically significant as an example of the gracious houses which
      characterise Lisson Grove from the 1870s to 1890s.