

## PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

## ADDRESS

38 Lisson Grove

## TYPE

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

## TITLE

"Kilmaire College" formerly "Austral"

## EXISTING DESIGNATION

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

## STREETSCAPE LEVEL

1 [ ] 2 [X] 3 [ ]

SIGNIFICANT [ ] SIGNIFICANT [X]

STREET TREES KERB &amp; 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 27.10.

Title

Vol.

Pol.

## 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 1883

Architect

Builder

Elements



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

## NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY    Good [ ]  
                  Fair [X]  
                  Poor [ ]

CONDITION    Good [X]  
                  Fair [ ]  
                  Poor [ ]

## CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden [ ]

## 38 LISSON GROVE

### "KILMAIRE COLLEGE"

#### History

Formerly known as "Austral" and built in 1883, this substantial two-storeyed residence was the home of William Shiels,<sup>28</sup> MLA. Shiels was Premier, Treasurer and Attorney-General of Victoria in the early 1890s during the economic crash which followed the 1880s boom. Shiels, who was Minister for Railways and Attorney-General in the Munro Ministry, succeeded James Munro as Premier and became Treasurer and Attorney-General. Munro fled the country, appointing himself Agent-General in London, but did not escape bankruptcy and ruin after the collapse of his Federal Bank and Real Estate Bank. Shiels introduced a policy of retrenchments to try to save the colony's credit but refused to prosecute many fraudulent financiers. Later, in 1893, Shiels authorised the prosecution of the directors of the failed Mercantile Bank but, after two years of legal proceedings, all were acquitted.<sup>29</sup>

Shiels former residence now forms part of Kilmaire College.<sup>30</sup>

#### Description and Assessment

A straightforward, typical two-storeyed, rendered villa with two storey cast iron verandah on three sides. The facade facing the street is somewhat unusual for the asymmetrical openings arrangement.

The building is not exceptionally architecturally, however it is of metropolitan significance as the home of Premier William Shiels.

#### Significance

#### Metropolitan

The former "Austral", built in 1883, is primarily significant for its association with the Lawyer, William Shiels, MLA, Premier, Treasurer and Attorney-General during the 1890s, a prominent Victorian politician.

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<sup>28</sup>. Gwen McWilliam, Lisson Grove, Street Walk VI, Hawthorn Historical Society, 1989.

<sup>29</sup>. Michael Cannon, *The Land Boomers*, pp. 63, 157, 214, 335-336.

<sup>30</sup>. McWilliam.

Address 38 LISSON GROVE

Description Two storey residence now used as part of Kilmaire College.  
See Place Identification Sheet for this building.

Alterations See P.I.F.

Unsympathetic additions See P.I.F.

Existing grading B2

Recommended grading B2

This building is significant for the reasons given in the P.I.F.  
Namely

No change to the grading is recommended.