

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

27 Mary Street

TYPE

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Unit Res. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shop | <input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape feature | <input type="checkbox"/> Public building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> View | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

TITLE

EXISTING DESIGNATION

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

STREETSCAPE LEVEL

1 [] 2 [] 3 [X]
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 [X]
VAS [] PLANNING SCHEME PROTECTION [X]
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE [] OTHER []

SURVEY DATE Oct. 91.

NEG FILE 15.02

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 1888-1889

Architect

Builder

Elements

☐ Contributing garden☐ Landmark tree☐ Original or early hard landscape layout☒ Original or early fence (requires further dating)

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY Good [X]
Fair []
Poor []

CONDITION Good [X]
Fair []
Poor []

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden []

27 MARY STREET

History

Robert Lennon, importer, was the first owner in 1888-89²¹ of the brick villa known now as 27 Mary Street. Lennon owned many allotments of land in Mary Street.²² In the 1888-89 Hawthorn rate book, Lennon was listed as the owner of a house in Mary Street, NAV 40 pounds, and vacant land in Lots 66, 67 and others.²³ By 1889, his house was described as a ten-roomed brick house, NAV 140 pounds.²⁴ Lennon was owner/occupier of his Mary Street residence still in 1892.²⁵ Walter Sollas was the occupier of the property in 1897 when it was recorded as No. 25.²⁶

Description

Partly concealed by fence and garden. Requires on-site inspection.

A Gothic inspired garden villa executed in polychrome brick. It adopts the standard "L" shaped form but includes many unusual features, including: a lantern light, corner turret, corner gable projection to the verandah, and honeycomb-like glazing bar divisions to the windows.

The gable end incorporates a small finial and quatrefoil pattern. Below, a prominent pointed arch in polychrome defines a panel of symmetrical zigzag pattern. A string course divides the upper and lower walls at the springing point of the arch. Quoins are formed by zigzag application of cream bricks on the red body. Contrasted with the forceful polychrome design is a delicate fretwork verandah valence overlaid on fine brackets.

The fence incorporates a diamond pattern. It is of unknown date.

Assessment

Architects were working on several innovative styles around the turn of the century, in one way or another all influenced by William Morris red house at Blexley Heath in Britain and the reaction for the industrial revolution in Britain during the second half of the nineteenth century. By the turn of the century these are roughly grouped together as the red brick styles. Conservative Victorian period villas which had developed through the 1870s and 1880s adopted some of the characteristics of these avant-garde groups in a decorative way - sometimes referred to as Freestyle Edwardian.

²¹. Hawthorn RB 1888-89 (ends 30 Sept. 1889) No. 585.

²². Ibid. Nos. 572, 573, 574.

²³. Ibid.

²⁴. Ibid. 1889-90 No. 616.

²⁵. Ibid. 1892 Power Ward - No. 3316.

²⁶. Information supplied by Gwen McWilliam.

27 Mary Street continued

The use of red bricks, albeit in polychrome form, is unusual for the date. They contribute a richness to the scheme which is consistent with the unusual detailing. This would have been largely lost if the more common sober Hawthorn brown bricks had been used.

The gothic form used here is a picturesque adaptation of ecclesiastic buildings. It is unusual on houses and rare by this date. Hawthorn's most notable Gothic revival building from this end of the twentieth century is 5 Grattan Street. It also adopts red brick for its base walling but is more adventurous than this example in its overall composition and decorative details.

Significance

Metropolitan

1. Architecturally significant for; its unusual picturesque Gothic form, and the early use of red bricks.
2. A contributing component to this outstanding Victorian Garden Suburb precinct at Grace Park.
3. Requires further on-site inspection.