

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

54 Mary 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 [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 [X]
VAS [] PLANNING SCHEME PROTECTION [X]
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE [] OTHER []

SURVEY DATE Oct. 91.
NEG FILE 15.15, 16
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 1909-1910.
Architect Christopher Cooper
Builder (possibly)
Elements



- 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 []

54 MARY STREET

History

Dr. J. O'Brien was the first owner in 1909 of a brick house of ten rooms described in the Hawthorn rate book as "unfinished", NAV 60 pounds.¹ The following year, the house was completed, its NAV having doubled to 120 pounds.² This former doctor's residence may be among the fine Edwardian homes in the Grace Park area designed by Christopher Cowper.³ In the 1918-19 rate book, Dr. O'Brien's house was recorded as 46 Mary Street.⁴ During the 1920s, it was owned and occupied by John B. Kent, ironfounder.⁵ Mrs. F.A. Kent was there still in 1938.⁶

Description

A Queen Anne single storey villa, executed in the standard red brick. The roof is hipped with hipped gable projections at the central wing, a receding hip at the rear and an extension for the second entrance. A further gable is added to define the corner at 45 degrees to street. The gable ends are half timbered. A small half octagonal verandah porch is integrated with the main roof. Its supporting posts are fashioned as flat corinthian columns. At the second entrance, similar columns are used with a skillion roof and Baroque parapet. Bay windows terminate the gable ends. Overall the roof is dominant with a particularly high pitch. The slate surface with terracotta ridging makes the building appear older than its actual date.

Assessment

Ussher and Kemp were at the forefront of the development of the domestic Queen Anne in Melbourne and Australia. Early buildings such as Campion College (former Dalwraith) of 1906, (Studley Park Road, Kew) and Woodlands of 1888 (Woodlands Street, Essendon) were instrumental in the development of the style to suit the typical suburban form which reached its peak in the first decade of the twentieth century.

Ussher's work falls into two categories, the gabled design - usually a two storey form and the hipped design where gables on two co-ordinate points project from an overall hip - usually a single storey form. In general, Ussher's largest houses e.g. Dalwraith in Kew of 1906, adopt the gabled designs. These houses fall into the mansion category. It is the single storey designs, which usually apply to large houses rather than mansions, which have developed into the distinctive Australian style, Queen Anne domestic and which were the most popular in the first decade of the twentieth century e.g. Hedges Residence, 1897 in Canterbury and Clarke's Residence in

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1. Hawthorn RB 1909-10 Power Ward No. 2688.
 2. Ibid. 1910-11 No. 2676.
 3. Gwen McWilliam, *Grace Park, Hawthorn*, Hawthorn Historical Society, 1987-88.
 4. Hawthorn RB 1918-19 Power Ward No. 2746.
 5. Ibid. 1928-29 Yarra Ward No. 1962.
 6. Melbourne Directories.

54 Mary Street continued

Toorak of 1897. Ussher joined with Kemp and developed the style with the characteristic features of tiled hipped roofs, timber verandah decorations, and a strongly three dimensional form with a corner emphasis.

Several key practitioners worked within the style. Ussher and Kemp, Walter Butler, Christopher Cowper amongst others. The early development occurs in the last decade of the nineteenth century culminating in the first decade of the twentieth century. The key practitioners were widely copied by builders up to the first world war.

This building has a less structural form than usual. The absence of the corner verandah and the heavy columns indicate the later date of this building.

Cowper is likely to be the architect. He often introduced a splayed corner treatment, particularly in the absence of a turret. Cowper also favoured the small verandah and heavy columns similar to those seen here.

This building is substantially intact and a large standard example of the late Queen Anne style.

Significance

Metropolitan

1. Architecturally significant as a substantially intact example of the late Queen Anne style. These buildings characterise the second building phase at Grace Park, and constitute perhaps the best Queen Anne precinct in the State.
2. Probably a work from the prolific builder/architect Christopher Cowper.



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