

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

36 Oxley Road

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 *May 91*
NEG FILE *02.05.*

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 *C1881-1882*
Architect
Builder
Elements



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

36 OXLEY ROAD

History

Built as the home of John Cam, market gardener and later, dairyman, circa 1881-82,¹³ this house was one of a number of timber houses in Oxley Road built for the Cam family. The same builder may have been employed in the construction of these houses. No. 40, for example, bears a striking resemblance to No. 36. The timber house at 36 Oxley Road was occupied from 1887-1891 by the architect/engineer, John Grainger, and his family.¹⁴ Grainger's famous son, the musician George Percy Grainger (1882-1961), who was born in Brighton, lived at 36 Oxley Road between the ages of five and nine.¹⁵

John Cam owned a small house in Oxley Road as early as 1869 and by 1878 owned two houses there.¹⁶ The following year, 1879, he owned three Oxley Road houses. One, his home, had an NAV of 25 pounds.¹⁷ In 1881-82, the Hawthorn rate books recorded an NAV of 50 pounds for Cam's home,¹⁸ which may have been the building later known as 36 Oxley Road. At this time, Cam let his other two Oxley Road houses to Edward and Francis Catford, gentlemen and J.P. Savage, law clerk.¹⁹ Francis, or Frank Catford, printer and journalist, was the owner/occupier between 1889-1892 of the substantial two-storeyed brick residence at 12 Goodall Street, now known as "Grossmont".²⁰ Cam continued to own and occupy one of his Oxley Road houses until 1884 when it was let to David Goodsir, warehouseman.²¹ Following John Cam's death, John Grainger, architect, became the occupier in 1887 of Cam's former house owned in that year by Mrs. Elizabeth Cam.²² By 1888-89, Mrs. Cam was recorded as the owner of five timber houses in Oxley Road.²³ In the following year, Grainger's home was described as a wooden house of seven rooms, NAV 64 pounds.²⁴ Grainger was listed as the tenants for the last time in the 1891-92 Hawthorn rate book.

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13. Hawthorn RB 1881-82 No. 855.
 14. Ibid. 1887-88 No. 4087; 1891-92 No. 1564.
 15. *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol. 9, p.69.
 16. Hawthorn RB 1869-70 No. 207; *ibid.* 1878-79 Nos. 487, 488.
 17. Ibid. 1879-80. No. 765.
 18. Ibid. 1881-82. No. 855.
 19. Ibid. Nos. 853, 854.
 20. See research 12 Goodall Street.
 21. Hawthorn RB. 1884-85 No. 1577.
 22. Ibid. 1887-88 No. 4087.
 23. Ibid. 1888-89 Nos. 4940-4945.
 24. Ibid. 1889-90 No. 5685.

36 Oxley Road continued

Other tenants of the Cam houses were Finlay Macdougall, Efford Bignall and Arthur Perks, accountants, and Frank Cathorwood, merchant.²⁵ Cam & Co., dairymen, occupied No. 44 Oxley Road still in 1939.²⁶

John Grainger, Percy's father, was born in Durham, England in 1855. Arriving in Adelaide in 1877, he took up the post of Engineer-in-Chief. After his marriage on 1 October 1880, Grainger set up in private practice in Melbourne, having already won the competition for the design of the new Princes Bridge. His son, Percy, was born in Brighton in 1882 and circa 1887 the family moved to 36 Oxley Road, Hawthorn. In September 1890, John Grainger returned to England for a visit, leaving his wife and son in Melbourne. Though he returned at the end of the year, he didn't rejoin his family. Thereafter, they only met occasionally in Europe and England.

Percy's first public performance was in the Masonic Hall, Melbourne, on 9 July 1894. The following May, he left for Germany with his mother. Percy never returned to Australia to live but retained his Australian nationalism. He toured Australia twice and in 1934-35 established the Grainger Museum in the grounds of the University of Melbourne. Percy gained a reputation as "the greatest living exponent" of Grieg's piano music and was a close friend and professional associate of Delius. Grainger was celebrated as "a pianist who forged his own style and expressed it with amazing skill, personality and vigor". He died of cancer in 1961 and was buried in the Aldridge family grave in Adelaide, where his mother was buried.²⁷

The house is typical of the weatherboard garden villas of the period for the area. Although altered, of considerable historical significance.

Significance

This house has historical significance for its associations with the famous Australian composer and musician, Percy Grainger, who lived there between the ages of five and nine. It has associations, also, with his father, John Grainger, architect, who designed the new Princes Bridge in 1879 and from 1897-1905 was Chief Architect in the West Australian Department of Public Works.

²⁵. Ibid. 1891-92. Nos. 1562 -1566.

²⁶. Melbourne Directory.

²⁷. *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 9, pp.69-72.