

Name	<i>Hirschell, Ilfracombe, Cora Lynn</i>	Reference No	
Address	184 Power Street, Hawthorn	Survey Date	28 April 2006
Building Type	Residence	Grading	C*
Date	1869	Previous Grading	C*3



Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

Intactness ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Poor

Heritage Status ☐ HV ☐ AHC ☐ NT ☒ Rec. BPS Heritage Overlay

History

The land occupied by *Hirschell* originally formed the south-eastern tip of Thomas Budd Payne's allotment, acquired at a Crown Land sale in 1846.¹ Payne steadily sold portions of his allotment through the 1860s, including the subject site which was acquired by Alfred Walsh. By 1869, a house valued at £80 and rated at £4 had been erected.² Alfred Walsh was a silversmith, and other members of his family including his father, former Lord Mayor of Melbourne Henry Sallows Walsh, also lived nearby.³ Walsh resided at this address for a number of years, before moving to Brighton in c. 1881. Graeme Butler has suggested that the advent of the new bridge connecting Hawthorn to Richmond at Swan Street, and the horse tramway, may have prompted this move.⁴ The house, consisting of nine rooms, was later acquired by property agent Peter Yeo who resided there until his death in 1886, after which date his widow let the house. Tenants during this period included members of the Goldsmith family (c. 1892) who were succeeded by Anthony Smith (c. 1898), who named the house *Hirschell*. Later owners and occupants included Henry Alcock, noted manufacturer of billiard tables, who resided there from c. 1910; the house remained in his family's ownership until the 1920s. It is thought that during the Alcock's period of ownership substantial alterations took place, generally giving the house its present-day appearance, and included altering original components such as the three-sided return verandah and bayed window forms to the east elevation. From the mid-1940s, the property was listed as flats in the *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, and apparently operated as a guest house for many years, under the direction of a Miss E D Clarke, still resident in 1974.⁵ From the late 1940s, the property next door at 182 Power Street had been acquired by the Catholic Missions to Italians, conducted by the Capuchin Fathers, as a hostel. In subsequent years the Mission expanded and St Anthony's Shrine was constructed during the early 1960s on land which had previously belonged to the subject property. At an unknown date, the subject property was acquired by the Mission. The property is now a parish office and meeting centre for St Anthony's Shrine.

(G Butler & Associates, *Hawthorn Keynote Places (draft)*, 2000; additional research by Lovell Chen, 2006)

Description & Integrity

Hirschell, 184 Power Street, Hawthorn, is a large, stuccoed masonry, single-storey dwelling comprising elements from the 1860s through to the early decades of the twentieth century. The roof is timber-framed with a consistent covering in rectangular slate tiles and galvanized iron ridge capping. The chimneys are stucco-rendered brick with richly sculpted cornices and semicircular flue dividers; smaller chimneys are chamfered at their stack corners, with a larger chimney to the north end having a beveled incision as well as the chamfering, to indicate a double chimney. The walls are stucco-clad masonry, probably brick on the upper sections but with a substantial bluestone base in random ashlar, visible in two exposed areas near the cellar door on the west side. A bluestone base-plate is also visible along part of the east elevation. The east and south elevations are predominantly remodeled, in an array of 'Mission' or later Arts and Crafts detailing common in the period 1905-1925, although in this instance closer to 1925 rather than 1905. These include what appears to be a bay and gable facing south to Wallen Road; timber casement windows to the west, south and east, grouped in bracketed box frames; slatwork balustrades to the verandah, together with plain timber verandah posts, and curving 'adzed' brackets below the verandah frieze and fascias; diagonal strut-brackets below south facing gables; and shingles in the gable front. The quarry tiles on the north-east verandah floor are fairly recent, as are the brick and tile paved steps, bluestone dwarf wall and garden area around the north-west door. The door appears to be original, although the bullnosed faceted canopy above is not. Other additions include the gaslight-style garden lights and the brick and cement rendered fence screening the house from the Power Street-Wallen Road corner. The house is also understood to have a large cellar.

Historical Context

The land occupied by the subject property was originally part of a Crown land sale and subdivision of 1846, with the house itself constructed in the late 1860s following further subdivision of the 1840s allotment.⁶ By the late nineteenth century, a number of very substantial houses had been constructed on Power Street, in this very desirable area just north of the Yarra River. The construction of a bridge over the river at the east end of Swan Street in the 1880s, further enhanced the attraction of the area, and provided improved access to the city.

Comparative Analysis

Hirschell, 184 Power Street, Hawthorn, bears comparisons with a number of other large properties in Hawthorn, and more broadly in Boroondara, in terms of its comparatively early date combined with a reasonably substantial early twentieth century re-working. Parallels include the 1900s additions to *Invergowrie*, Coppin Grove, initially constructed in 1846-69; *Darley* at 2 Merrion Grove Kew (1869) which had a verandah and front door bay remodeled in the 1900s; and *Tasma* at 7 Muir Street, Hawthorn, reworked around the bay window, front door and verandah sometime in the 1900s or 1910s. Other connections include residences in the Coppin, Isabella and Shakespeare Groves area, where the linkages include the use of bluestone bases with more sophisticated upper levels, often with some small High Victorian components such as chamfering or stucco scoring. The massive bluestone base and apparently large cellar of the subject property also draws comparisons with the George Fincham Sr house at 41 Coppin Grove, which is of a similar date and was similarly reworked later. The remodeling of the subject property emphasized fenestration and a recast verandah framing, which were common Federation and early bungalow period emphases in alterations and additions. It is not clear to what degree these alterations reshaped the interior; 184 Power Street was at any rate later subdivided as flats before presumably being reworked again for Catholic Missions to Italians use.

Assessment Against Criteria

Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria

CRITERION D: *The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as a part of a class or type of places or objects.*

Hirschell, 184 Power Street, Hawthorn, is a long-standing Hawthorn property which dates back to comparatively early development in the Power Street area; it is also an example of an early twentieth century makeover of a substantial 1860s residence, resulting in a layered building form. In its bluestone base, use of hillside topography, and mixture of Italianate and High Victorian elements, 184 Power Street typifies aspects of the early homesteads in Hawthorn. The alterations are also consistent with a pattern in the area in the early years of the twentieth century, when many of the earlier houses were reworked and updated to a more 'fashionable' appearance.

CRITERION E: *The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.*

Hirschell, 184 Power Street, Hawthorn, is an example of a layered residence which combines valued elements of the mid-nineteenth century through to the 1920s. These include for the earlier period, the use of bluestone bases with more sophisticated upper levels often with some small High Victorian components; and for the later period, renewal and replacement of windows, removal of verandah elements such as cast iron and verandah framing, and the introduction of gabbling, shingle panelling and other decorative details.

Statement of Significance

Hirschell, 184 Power Street, Hawthorn, is of local historical and architectural significance. It is of historical significance both as a long-standing property in the Hawthorn area, and as an example of an early twentieth century makeover of a substantial 1860s residence. Typical aspects of the early homesteads in Hawthorn include the bluestone base, use of hillside topography, and mixture of Italianate and High Victorian elements. The alterations are also consistent with a pattern in the area in the early years of the twentieth century, when many of the earlier houses were updated, resulting today in a building which successfully combines elements from both eras in a layered form. The latter elements include 'Mission' or later Arts and Crafts detailing such as gabbling with shingling and diagonal strut-brackets; casement windows grouped in bracketed box frames; and for the verandah, slatwork balustrades, plain timber verandah posts, and curving 'adzed' brackets to the frieze and fascias.

Grading Review

Unchanged.

Recommendations

Recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Boroondara Planning Scheme.

Identified By

Meredith Gould Conservation Architects, *Hawthorn Heritage Study*, 1992.

References

General: (G Butler & Associates, *Hawthorn Keynote Places (draft)*, 2000; Meredith Gould Conservation Architects, *Hawthorn Heritage Study*, 1992.)

Specific:

¹ McWilliam, Gwen. *Hawthorn peppercorns*, 1978, pp. 26-27.

² Borough of Hawthorn Rate Books, 1869-70, #37, cited in G Butler & Associates, *Hawthorn Keynote places (draft)*, 2000.

³ Draft citation, G Butler & Associates, *Hawthorn Keynote places (draft)*, 2000.

⁴ Draft citation, G Butler & Associates, *Hawthorn Keynote places (draft)*, 2000.

⁵ Pattern of occupation derived from listings in the *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, various years between 1920 and 1974.

⁶ G Butler & Associates, *Hawthorn Keynote places (draft)*, 2000.