

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

117 Riversdale Road

TYPE

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

TITLE

'Eyre Court'

EXISTING DESIGNATION

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

STREETSCAPE LEVEL

1 [] 2 [X] 3 []
 SIGNIFICANT [] SIGNIFICANT []
 STREET TREES KERB & 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 35.21,22

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 c1898

Architect

Builder Henry Kaiser (possibly)

Elements



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

11 RIVERSDALE ROAD

"EYRECOURT"

History

This late Victorian residence, originally known as "Eyrecourt", was built about 1898 for James Madden, an officer at the Royal Mint.¹ Madden was listed on the site for the first time in the 1899 Sands and McDougall Directory. By 1900-1901, "Eyrecourt" was described as a brick house of eight rooms on the north side of Riversdale Road near Power Street.² It is shown on a 1901-2 MMBW drainage plan as the sixth house from the corner. In 1900-1901 the row of houses from Power Street were:

- John Sheil Reid, sharebroker, 10-roomed brick.
- John Coullston, shorthand writer, 10-roomed brick "Marathon".
- Mary Hennerbein, 10-roomed brick, "Leongatha".
- William Williams, Clergyman (tenant), 10-roomed brick, "Dalwey".
- Hugh Fraser, merchant, 9-roomed brick, "Alveburn".
- James Madden, 8-roomed brick, "Eyrecourt".³

These houses may all have been by the local Hawthorn builder, Henry Kaiser.

Description

A "L" shaped garden villa with cast iron return verandah. The roof is hipped slate and the walls red brick with render quoins and dressings. A prominent three part gable roof surmounts the faceted bay projection on the street facing wing. Below are shallow arch openings with rendered heads and architraves down to a string course which runs across the two principal facades. Render panels below the windows complete the bay. At the entry, splayed stairs are marked by urns on short pedestals. The cast iron is standard, though now painted in multi colours. At the eaves the brackets are paired and interspersed with garlands.

Assessment

John Beswicke introduced a three part gable on "Rotha" in Harcourt Street in 1888. This prominent feature was copied widely. Another examples nearby is 82 Riversdale Road of 1904 where it is used on both ends of the "L" shape. That building is not attributed to a particular architect. The red brick and rendered quoin treatment is similar to 106 Church Street (also possibly by Beswicke or Beswicke and Coote). The use of red brick and the wall body colour was developed in the late 1880s and the 1890s by an avant-garde group of architects inspired by the work of English architects who in turn looked to the vernacular at Webb's Red House at Blexley Heath. Usually the red brick houses are Queen Anne. The very standard plan and elevational form seen here at Riversdale Road is overlaid by the use of a "modern" material, without any of the style adjustments which generally accompany it.

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1. Hawthorn RB 1898-99, 1899-1900 Power Ward (missing pages covering this part of Riversdale Road).
 2. Ibid. 1900-1901 No. 2074 (NAV 66 pounds).
 3. Ibid. Nos. 2079, 2078, 2077, 2076, 2075, 2074.

// Riversdale Road continued

This house is one of a group in Riversdale Road (near Power Street), all built at a similar date. It is the most intact of these.

Significance

Metropolitan

1. Architecturally significant as a late example of standard "L" shaped villa form utilizing modern materials and the characteristic Hawthorn three part gable roof design. Possibly by architect John Beswicke or builder Henry Kaiser.



