

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

98 Riversdale Road

TYPE

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

TITLE

Alzheimer Society of Victoria

EXISTING DESIGNATION

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

STREETSCAPE LEVEL

1 [] 2 [] 3 []
 SIGNIFICANT [] SIGNIFICANT []
 STREET TREES KERB & GUTTERS

GRADING

A [] B [] C [] D [] E []
 KEYNOTE BUILDING []

RECOMMENDED FOR

HBR/GBR [] AHC [] URBAN CONSERVATION AREA []
 VAS [] PLANNING SCHEME PROTECTION []
 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE [] OTHER []

SURVEY DATE

Oct. 91.

NEG FILE

34.30, 51

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 1899-1900
 Architect *Ussher and Kemp.*
 Builder
 Elements



- Contributing garden
- Landmark tree
- Original or early hard landscape layout
- Original or early fence

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY Good []
 Fair []
 Poor []

CONDITION Good []
 Fair []
 Poor []

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden []

Address 98 RIVERSDALE ROAD

Description See Hawthorn Heritage Study P.I.F. for this building.

Alterations Some alterations have occurred to the first floor balcony. It is understood that there are extensive alterations to the interior, although these have not been viewed.

Unsympathetic additions

Existing Grading A2

Recommended Grading A2.

The statement of significance for this property reads as follows:

"Architecturally significant at the State level as one of Ussher and Kemp's best and most sophisticated designs, integrating unusual brick detailing and an atypical symmetrical arrangement".

When that assessment was made the alterations which have occurred were already known. Despite these, the architectural significance remains clear and is diminished, very little by them. The outstanding design remains of State significance and the A2 grading should remain.

See P.I.F. for extensive additional information.

98 RIVERSDALE ROAD

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

History

The architects Ussher and Kemp designed the imposing Edwardian villa at 98 Riversdale Road in 1899 for George and Mary Ann Thyssen.³⁶ The house was listed first in the 1900-1901 Hawthorn rate book as No. 28 Riversdale Road, a brick house of eight rooms owned by Mary Ann Thyssen and occupied by George Thyssen, NAV 150 pounds.³⁷ The previous year, Mary Ann Thyssen of Oliver Street, Camberwell, was rated for two blocks of vacant land in Riversdale Road south side.³⁸ From 1901-2, Mary Ann Thyssen was listed as owner/occupier³⁹ and, from 1902-3, the owner's name was given as Marion Thyssen.⁴⁰ By 1915, the property was known as No. 96 and was described as a brick house of ten rooms, NAV 150 pounds.⁴¹ Marion Thyssen was owner/occupier still in 1920-21.⁴² The Rev. J. Tyson was there in 1952.⁴³

Description

A superlative, very large, domestic Queen Anne villa. The basic form is a hipped roof, very steeply pitched, terminating at a shallow pitched verandah which encompasses three sides of the house. In an asymmetrical scheme, gabled wings project from each side and as a large central first floor feature at the front. Small side gables on the principal elevation frame a projecting balcony between the first floor gable. Access to the front door is via a side entry. This appears to be original but requires on-site checking. The verandah balustrade is effected in basket weave red bricks. A rendered string course at the top defines the piers and above are brick corinthian columns, some square shaped, some round shaped with purpose made red bricks. The first floor elevation is missing its balustrade, but otherwise displays an intricate elevation with two central doors leading to a balcony and flanking faceted bay windows. A timber arch joins these. Above is a small window to an attic floor. The walls of the first and second floors are executed in scalloped shingles (now painted). This material is also used on the flanking verandah gable ends. Tall chimneys rise from the high slate roof.

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36. Gwen McWilliam, Grocers' Hill, Area Walk IX, Hawthorn Historical Society, 1990; *BEMJ* 14 Oct. 1899 (p. 6).
37. Hawthorn R.B. 1900-1901, Glenferrie Ward No. 3137.
38. *Ibid.* 1899-1900 Nos. 3135, 3136.
39. *Ibid.* 1901-1902 No. 3137.
40. *Ibid.* 1902-1903 No. 3141.
41. *Ibid.* 1915-16 No. 4225.
42. *Ibid.* 1920-21 No. 4245 (NAV 158 pounds).
43. Melbourne Directories.

98 Riversdale Road continued

Assessment

This is one of Ussher and Kemp's most important works.

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 1900, 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 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.

The Queen Anne style, combined with some of the principals of Australian homestead planning and design, around the turn of the century, to produce a new suburban style continuing to the end of W.W.1. Sometimes loosely referred to as "Edwardian" or "Federation" it is more appropriately referred to as "Garden Bungalow", because it does not relate just to the period around Federation at 1901, and because it is intimately related to the garden suburb concept. What sets the "garden bungalow" and "Queen Anne domestic" apart from the other red brick styles of the period, is a purposeful and close relationship with the garden as the dominant feature. A variety of decorative forms are used within this framework. The "garden Bungalow" eventually developed into the ubiquitous Californian Bungalow of the 1920s and 1930s.

The "domestic Queen Anne" had an ongoing influence on vernacular designs which can be seen up to the 1960s. The domestic Queen Anne buildings which survive from the turn of the century had a vital role in the development of the urban form of the metropolis.

This building is the precursor for the form of 45 Riversdale Road executed a few years later. But it illustrates a highly sophisticated response to the style in the use of the brick columns, the brick balustrade and the first floor detailing. This scheme shows substantial adaptation and meeting of the two major Queen Anne types of hipped form and two storey gable form.

98 Riversdale Road continued

Beverley Ussher experimented with brick columns in 1897 at the Clarke residence in Clendon Road, Toorak. This example is a further extension of the Clarke house by the termination of the columns on the balustrade and the basket weave balustrade itself, an American Romanesque feature.

The integration of the first floor by extension of the steeply pitched roof is handled with consummate ease, but, as is the case for the symmetrical formality, is atypical for the style.

Significance

State

1. Architecturally significant at the State level as one of Ussher and Kemps' best and most sophisticated designs, integrating unusual brick detailing and an atypical symmetrical arrangement.

