

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

31 Shakespeare Grove

TYPE

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

TITLE

EXISTING DESIGNATION

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

STREETSCAPE LEVEL

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

GRADING

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

RECOMMENDED FOR

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

SURVEY DATE Nov. 91
NEG FILE 41.24-26.

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 1886-1887
Architect Tappin, Gilbert
Builder and Dennehy.
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 []

31 SHAKESPEARE GROVE

History

William H. Leahy, hotel broker, was the first owner in 1887 of two-storeyed, 15-roomed brick residence at 31 Shakespeare Grove,¹⁵ designed by the notable architectural firm of Tappin, Gilbert and Dennehy. Tenders were called in June 1886.¹⁶ By 1888, the NAV of Leahy's house had increased to 130 pounds.¹⁷

The architect, William Britain Tappin, was a partner in the firm Tappin, Gilbert and Dennehy, which from the 1870s to the early 1890s designed churches and other religious buildings as well as public and commercial buildings in Ballarat, Melbourne and Sydney. The firm had offices in Ballarat and Melbourne.¹⁸ Later, in the 1890s until the turn of the century, Tappin joined the firm of Reed, Smart and Tappin which designed a variety of buildings during this period despite the depression. Tappin a Roman Catholic, was "something of an artist" and is credited with stencils behind the altar in St. Patrick's Cathedral and the design of a shrine in St. Francis Church. He died in 1905.¹⁹

In a sale notice of 24 June 1987, the house at 31 Shakespeare Grove was described as containing five apartments and returning \$16,000 annually.²⁰

Description

A dour and forbidding but finely executed mansion house, executed in Hawthorn brown bricks and render. A prominent gabled wing projects beside a colonnaded verandah. A shallow bay projects from the gable wing at the first floor and a larger faceted bay at the ground floor level. On the ground floor the colonnade incorporates unusual shallow arches and above the verandah is expressed with thin corinthian columns supporting flat brackets and bracketed eaves.

Bands of render prominently divide the facade horizontally. The arches of the arcade translate into a string course carried across the bay and around to the side, broken by two long (staircase?) windows. All the mouldings are particularly plain and flat, the openings are severely effected and their narrow size gives an overall impression of austerity.

15. Hawthorn R.B. 1887-88 No. 13.

16. Argus 5 June 1886 (p.14).

17. Hawthorn R.B. 1888-89 No. 986.

18. Miles Lewis, *"Australian Architectural Index."*

19. Bates Smart & McCutcheon - *"Historical Survey 1852-1972"*, pp. 9-11.

20. Gwen McWilliam, *"Burwood Park"*, 1988, pp. 123-124.

31 Shakespeare Grove continued

Assessment

Tappin, Gilbert and Dennehy were major architects in the nineteenth century. From 1874 to 1891 they executed a wide variety of works in Melbourne and Ballarat. The firm joined with Smart to become Tappin, Dennehy and Smart around 1892 and then later with Hyndman and Bates to become Bates, Peebles, Smart in 1914. Bates, Smart and McCutcheon a prominent contemporary practice continues the firm.

Tappin, Gilbert and Dennehy were amongst the avant-garde. In 1887 they designed their Aesthetic Movement shops in Gertrude Street, Fitzroy. Experimentation in red brick and the "Modern Italian" continued. In Hawthorn this is exemplified by 45 Mary Street of 1885 designed by their future partners Reed, Henderson and Smart. Tappin, Gilbert and Dennehy executed their major red brick design in the Elizabethan style at Queen Bess Row in East Melbourne in 1886. Whilst not overtly new, this house in Shakespeare Grove shows an experimental hand. The flatness of the mouldings, the shallow arches, the undulating effect of connecting arches, and the plain austere piers are consistent with the revolutionary stripped detailing seen at 45 Mary Street and point towards the major changes which occurred in design in the last decade of the 19th century.

Significance

State

1. Architecturally significant for its illustration of the movement away from applied decoration and towards the expression of design by form.
2. Architecturally significant as an important example of the work of Tappin, Gilbert and Dennehy.
3. Historically significant for its contribution to the St. James Park estate.





31 Shakespeare Grove