

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

22 Shakespeare Grove

TYPE

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

TITLE

"Verona"

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 Nov. 91.

NEG FILE 41.07

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 1874  
 Architect John F. Gibbins  
 Builder (1891)  
 Elements



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

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY Good [ ] Fair [ ] Poor [ ] UNCLEAR  
 CONDITION Good  Fair [ ] Poor [ ]

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden [ ]

The site information given above has been determined from external street level inspection.

\* Site visit required

## 22 SHAKESPEARE GROVE

### "VERONA"

#### History

The earliest portion of this house was built in 1874 for the Hawthorn pioneer, Henry Sallows Walsh.<sup>35</sup> Its owner was Mayor of Melbourne in 1858-59 and the first Chairman of the City of Melbourne Gas Company and of the Suburban Railway Company. He was the first chairman of the Boroondara District Road Board in 1856 and chaired the meeting called to elect the first Hawthorn Council in August 1860. In 1869, Walsh became M.L.C. for the Central Province. Prior to 1874, he lived at "Longfield" in Power Street. Born in 1804 in Sussex, England, he arrived in Port Phillip in 1849. Walsh was one of a family of watchmakers and jewellers. His firm with offices in Collins Street became Walsh Bros, in 1862. He was active in local affairs in Hawthorn, winning prizes for his Longfield wines in 1862. Walsh was a member of the Horticultural Society and of the Vinegrowers Associations. He died at his home in St. James Park, Hawthorn on 8 July, 1877.<sup>36</sup>

Archibald Davidson, the owner of a trio of single-storeyed houses opposite at Nos. 23-27 Shakespeare Grove (built 1884-85), bought Walsh's house in the 1890s. He commissioned the architect, John F. Gibbins, to make alterations to it. Gibbins was responsible for the design of a number of Hawthorn residences in the 1880s. An article in the *Architects, Builders and Contractors News* of 14 March 1891 described the building and contained a perspective drawing. The work was listed as a residence in St. James Park, Hawthorn, for A. Davidson; designer, John Frederick Gibbins, architect.<sup>37</sup> The building was listed in the Hawthorn rate book in 1891 as "unfinished", perhaps because it was virtually rebuilt, or because the depression had slowed alterations.

#### Description

Only partly visible. Site visit required to inspect ground level and garden elevation. A two storey mansion house with attached three storey tower, set well back from the frontage. The basic house appears to be street facing rather than garden oriented. It incorporates a projecting hipped wing with attached two storey bay and an adjoining recessed verandah which terminates in a parapeted wing wall. The walls are of render and the roof slate. The render decoration is particularly fine. At openings a slender colonnette is worked into the edge of the reveal. A quasi balcony is implied by the extension of the verandah balustrade as panels below the bay windows. Decorative string courses run through the elevation. The eaves are simply bracketed. The verandah appears to have some elements missing. At first floor level however, the rendered balustrade matches the bay window and appears to be intact.

The tower is a very grand affair, elaborately detailed in boom style manner, and dripping with decorative devises.

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<sup>35</sup>. Hawthorn RB Western Division 1887-88 No. 31.

<sup>36</sup>. Ibid. 1888-89 No. 983; Gwen McWilliam, "Burwood Park", 1888, p.123.

<sup>37</sup>. *ABCN* 14 March 1891 (p. 187) with illus. perspective.



## 22 Shakespeare Grove continued

### Assessment

The street facing wing is remarkably similar to architect T.J. Tyler's villa at 58 Lisson Grove. It matches very closely in overall form, and in the careful render detailing. In particular there is a similarity in the colonnettes, the bay balustrading and the sharp attachment of the bay to the projecting wing. Although the Lisson Grove house has a return cast iron verandah, the similarities are sufficient to suggest the hand of the same architect.

The basic form of the front portion of the mansion is standard but the mechanism of attachment of the bay and the render detailing are uncommon. In contrast, Gibbins' tower is typical boom style. Towers are frequent in Grace Park where "mansion" equals expression of wealth equals "tower". Many buildings were constructed with towers, but equally several others added these to fit with the perceived necessity for a tower in the 1880s. No. 1 Shakespeare Grove is an example. Towers have been added even in recent times to otherwise towerless mansions.

Gibbins, born in 1857, practised on his own from around 1887 until 1902 and then with his son up to the first world war. He undertook extensive work in Melbourne for residential and commercial projects. It is not clear to what extent Gibbins altered the first 1870's house. Site inspection would help to determine this.

### Significance

### Metropolitan

1. Architecturally significant for the fine render detailing to a typical garden villa form.
2. Historically significant in the illustration of the importance of the tower as the image of a mansion in the boom 1880s.
3. Significant for its contribution to the St. James Park Estate.
4. This brick residence, begun in 1874 and virtually rebuilt in 1891, has historical significance for its association with the Hawthorn pioneer, jeweller, winegrower and politician, Henry Sallows Walsh (1804-1877), from 1874 until his death. It has significance, also, for its associations in the early 1890s with Archibald Davidson, owner also of the 1880s houses opposite at 23-27 Shakespeare Grove.



22 Shakespeare Grove