

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

44 Wattle Road

TYPE

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

TITLE

EXISTING DESIGNATION

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

STREETSCAPE LEVEL

1 [] 2 [] 3 [X]
SIGNIFICANT [] SIGNIFICANT [X]
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 25.29
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 1882
Architect
Builder Andrew Skeene
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 []

44 WATTLE ROAD

History

This was one of a number of brick houses built for Henry M. Moriarty in Weinberg Road, as Wattle Road was known earlier, in the 1880s and 1890s,¹⁹ and may date from as early as 1882. In that year, John Lewis, printer, owned house and land with an NAV of 50 pounds.²⁰ Moriarty's name was written in across the entry for Lewis' property in 1884-85 when the NAV was 55 pounds.²¹ Moriarty was the owner/occupier in 1885-86.²² The 1888 Hawthorn rate book listed Moriarty as the owner of an 8-roomed brick house in Weinberg Road NAV 70 pounds.²³ There was an adjacent house owned by local builder, Andrew Skeen (or Skeene).²⁴ Gwen McWilliam suggests that the houses owned by Moriarty at 38, 40, 42 and 44 may have been rebuilt by Skeen in the late 1880s.²⁵

Description

A double fronted, single storey, rendered villa with timber verandah (recently extended across the drive). The render decoration is particularly fine. At the corners and at the window and door openings, are oversized quoins, vermiculated in the centre and enclosed in a regular border. At the eaves vermiculated panels are interspersed with delicate paired brackets and a modillion. The verandah presents an equally intricate patterning, using paired timber posts with delicate, small, half round brackets, and a frieze panel of fretwork circles. The overall effect is picturesque.

Assessment

The two standard brick or render villa patterns in the 1880s were: either an asymmetrical projecting wing type with verandah, sometimes returning around the corner, or a flat front symmetrical approach, usually with a bay window flanking the central front door. In the early 1880s the latter did not penetrate the verandah roof. Towards the end of the 1880s the bays were reflected in a faceted hip to the main roof and the verandah profile followed the plan form of the bay windows. The flat front symmetrical villa as illustrated here with its simple form was not often used after the 1870s, except on simple, usually weatherboard properties. This property is unusual for its use of the simple 1870s form on a substantial house, but with a picturesque overlay in render decoration and timber fretwork for its character. By this date cast iron was overwhelmingly the preferred material for verandahs, however a few buildings

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19. Gwen McWilliam, Wattle Road, Street Walk II, Hawthorn Historical Society, 1988.
 20. Hawthorn R.B. 1882-83 Nos. 1124, 1125.
 21. Ibid. 1884-85 No. 803.
 22. Ibid. 1885-86 No. 865 (NAV 60 pounds).
 23. 1888 R.B. Index No. 314 (Local History Collection, Hawthorn City Library).
 24. Ibid. No. 315.
 25. McWilliam.

44 Wattle Road continued

still receive timber decoration. The circle pattern used here is a traditional one also seen at 130 Powlett Street, East Melbourne. Whilst its use is not uncommon in Melbourne, its substantial survival is uncommon.

This building is a particularly fine example of atypical picturesque villa design from the early 1880s.

Significance

Regional

1. Architecturally significant as a particularly fine example of atypical picturesque villa design from the early 1880s.