

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

1A Wiseman Street

TYPE

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

TITLE

"Widford"

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 61.15, 16

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 c1860, 1880s (1883)

Architect

Builder

Elements



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

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY Good ☒ to 1883
 Fair ☐
 Poor ☐

CONDITION Good ☐
 Fair ☒
 Poor ☐

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden ☐

Address 1A WISEMAN STREET

Description See Heritage Study P.I.F.

Inspection of the exterior and interior has revealed, as expected, a house built in at least two stages. The rear portion is the earliest and might well be the 1860s brick house belonging to Thomas Hilliard. The lower height and separate roof to this section are indicative of this. However also significant in this wing are the french doors on the north elevation. However if these were to be part of the 1860s house, then the number of rooms would be too great. It is more likely that the house has three periods of construction. The first of these rooms in the 1860s, a section of probably 4 rooms within the next decade, and the last comprising only the front two rooms in the 1880s. The "front rooms" were facing Auburn Road and came with the double bayed cast iron verandah, then so fashionable in Hawthorn. These are clearly later, as indicated by the wall thickness and roof changes here.

Notwithstanding its three periods of construction, the house appears to be almost completely intact internally and externally to its early twentieth century form. For this it is remarkable. Although it has lost its Auburn Road frontage, its side garden to the north is intact and includes the original side drive. To the east the tennis court also survives and the stable on the adjoining allotment completes the context of the site planning.

Two important outside toilets survive. These serviced the tennis court and are complete with original plumbing and fixtures. Internally, the kitchen is intact to a date early this century as are the two bathrooms. One bathroom contains a functioning early toilet complete with timber encased cistern and a very early bath.

Alterations Gates and fence relocated here after subdivision of the frontage to Auburn Road. Conservatory removed, tennis court occupied by cars.

Unsympathetic additions Later verandah to rear portion.

Existing Grading B3.

Meredith Gould

1A WISEMAN STREET continued

Recommended
Grading

B3.

This building is a time capsule from the early twentieth century. It contains the most intact interior fittings and finishes from the early twentieth century in Hawthorn. Were it not for the removal of the Conservatory and the 1940s verandah, this property would be appropriate for the Historic Buildings Register.

The significance previously recognised, is just as applicable after inspection internally. To this should be added.

Significant architecturally for the intactness of the interior, particularly the bathrooms and kitchen, and for the external toilets, to their late nineteenth and early twentieth century forms.

Meredith Gould

1A WISEMAN STREET

"WIDFORD"

History

The oldest portion of this Victorian residence may date from the 1860s or earlier when a brick house of three rooms in Auburn Road (where the property was rated before the formation of Wiseman Street in 1924) was owned by Thomas Hilliard.¹ This property was purchased by Albert Wiseman, a Flinders Lane warehouseman, in 1874.² At the same time, Walter Wiseman, warehouseman, purchased its neighbour, a two-roomed brick house, from Robert Burgess.³ The Hilliard and Burgess houses had been there from the 1860s or earlier.⁴

About 1883, the Wisemans extended or, most probably, rebuilt the former Hilliard and Burgess houses. In that year, Albert Wiseman's house "Widford" and Walter Wiseman's "Kent" had NAVS of 175 pounds,⁵ more than double the earlier valuations. By 1888, their homes were described as brick houses of nine rooms.⁶

The Wiseman Bros., Flinders Lane merchants, acquired a number of Hawthorn properties during the boom years and by 1888 owned twenty, some of which they subdivided. Later, they moved to Glenroy.⁷ By 1893, the Wiseman residences were described as brick houses of twelve and eleven rooms.⁸ The former "Widford" has survived as 1A Wiseman Street with its original stables and coachhouse surviving as the two-storey house at 1 Wiseman Street. "Kent", which became Arthur Wiseman's property, was demolished in 1919 and subdivided into Deanlea Court.⁹

Wiseman Street was formed in 1924. By the 1920s, "Widford" was owned by the Krizos family. Originally known as Constantine Kyriazopoulos, the new owner came from Adinanople in East Turkey. After studying at Athens University and in Paris, he became a government doctor in Bulgaria. In 1901, Constantine arrived in Melbourne and became a lodge doctor. He married in June 1909 and a son, Michael, was born in 1910. In 1921, Constantine became Honorary Consul

1. Hawthorn RB 1867-68 Nos. 70, 72.

2. Ibid. 1874-75 No. 189 (NAV 80 pounds).

3. Ibid. No. 189 (NAV 65 pounds).

4. Gwen McWilliam. *Tooronga Area Walk VIII*, p.4.

5. Hawthorn RB 1883-84 Nos. 2025, 2026.

6. McWilliam, loc. cit.

7. Ibid.

8. Hawthorn RB. 1893 Nos. 4891, 4892.

9. Mayblooms and Cherry Bobs: Recollections of Hawthorn, Section II. Material supplied by Michael Krizos, p.82.

1A Wiseman Street continued

for Greece. He practised medicine until his death in 1939. Michael Krizos and his sisters attended the Auburn South Primary School.¹⁰

Description

The c1860 brick house which documents suggest may survive here could well be the rear portion of the building now facing Wiseman Street. This presently comprises a tall hipped roof structure with two chimneys and several openings in a face brick wall now painted. The verandah on this section is clearly new. The original appears to have extended from the main roof pitch and may well have been altered in the 1880s.

The large house attaches to what would once have been the Auburn Road facing front. This comprises a double bayed elevation reflected in the cranked form of the verandahs. The verandah extends on the street side, the other side and the front are indistinctly visible. Requires on-site inspection.

The fine cast iron fence might perhaps have been relocated from Auburn Road.

Assessment

In the 1880s the southern portion of the land between Auburn Road and Burke Road was developed as very large sites for mansion houses facing the major roads, Auburn, Tooronga and Burke. This provided a semi-rural setting, not available at the prestigious Hepburn Hill, St. James Park and Harcourt Street Estates, but still close to transport. Generally single storey houses were constructed, set well back from the major road and incorporating extensive gardens. Because there was plenty of residential land close to the city in the northern position of Hawthorn, these Auburn mansions were not subdivided until around the 1920s when east west roads were let in each time a mansion house allotment was subdivided. The uniform nature of the Auburn Ward is therefore a reflection of the 1880s mansion allotments rather than the planned grid system which it appears to be at first glance.

When subdivided the large mansions faced their new road, in this case Wiseman Street, but without the benefit of viewing the principal facade.

This building is similar to 5 Rosslyn Street. Its form is typical rather than exceptional. It appears to be substantially intact to the 1880s form, and may contain a c1860 section. The stable survives at 1A Wiseman Street.

Significance

Metropolitan

1. Architecturally significant if the rear can be shown to be part of the c1860 building. Few buildings of this date survive in Hawthorn.
2. Architecturally significant as a typical example of the villas adapted to a mansion house setting in the southern section of the Auburn Ward in the 1880s.

¹⁰. Ibid. Section I. Material supplied by Michael Krizos, pp.10-11, 37.

1A Wiseman Street continued

3. The Wiseman Brothers, prosperous Flinders Lane warehouseman, who extended or, most probably, rebuilt their neighbouring residences, "Widford" and "Kent" (now demolished) about 1883, were typical of the wealthy businessmen with city offices who chose the Tooronga area for their mansion homes. Historically significant.
4. The house has historic significance, also, in the 1920s and later as the home of Constantine Krizos, a medical man from East Turkey who became Honorary Consul for Greece and practised medicine until his death in 1939.



1A Wiseman Street