

Original Use: Residence  
Date of Construction: 1906<sup>1</sup>  
Architect: Ussher and Kemp<sup>2</sup>

DESIGNATION A  
CITATION NO.43

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#### HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

This large two-storeyed house was originally owned and occupied by Samuel William Gibson of the Melbourne firm Foy and Gibson, drapers and merchants<sup>3</sup>. Known as 'Dalswraith', the house remained in Gibson's ownership until 1924 when the land surrounding the house was auctioned as the Glendalough Estate<sup>4</sup>. The house was subsequently purchased Dr. John Murphy<sup>5</sup> and later, in 1949, by the Jesuit Fathers who use the residence in connection with Xavier Preparatory School<sup>6</sup>. It is now known as 'Campion College'.

'Dalswraith' is one of the most prominent Edwardian buildings to have been built in Melbourne. Its solid, tall, two storeyed form is dominated by two gabled half timbered pavilions, between which spills the steep terracotta tiled roof. The house is what Tibbits<sup>7</sup> refers to as 'Old English' in style and has very few comparisons in Melbourne: 'Woodlands' at Essendon, also by Kemp, being one of the few. It is a most comprehensive and skilled essay in the style and stands in direct contrast with the Federation Bungalow form of housing that Ussher and Kemp normally pursued. Apart from its most distinctive styling, the use of materials is also of great interest, the walls are in the common red brick but this is combined with the central porch structure in freestone, the decorative horizontal frieze in pressed terracotta, walls clad in hanging tiles, and very fine stained glass to the front entrance.

## SIGNIFICANCE

'Dalswraith' is of significance as one of the most scholarly and bold expressions of the Old English style of house in the Edwardian period in Melbourne, and apart from 'Woodlands' is without parallel in Victoria. The outstanding state of intactness of the house and of the grounds that remain, is integral to the significance.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS

HBR: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

GBR: N/A

RNE: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

National Trust: Classified No.1229.

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<sup>1</sup> National Trust of Aust.(Vic), 'Building Citation - 99 Studley Park Road', held in File No.1229

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> 'Auction Notice - Glendalough Estate', March 29 1924, held in Kew Historical Society Collection No.62

<sup>5</sup> Rogers, D., *Lovely Old Homes of Kew*, p.30

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> G.Tibbits, 'The So-Called Melbourne Domestic Queen Anne', *Historic Environment*, Vol.2, No.2, 1982, p.13

Campion College, formerly Dalswraith, is a clear candidate for registration as an Historic Building. It is one of the significant buildings of the early twentieth century in Melbourne, with historic associations with leading commercial figures and one of the most influential architectural firms of the period.