

15 NOLAN AVENUE, 'STUDLEY HOUSE'

Original Use: Residence
Date of Construction: circa 1857¹, 1875, and c.1919
Architect: 1875 works, William.J. Ellis

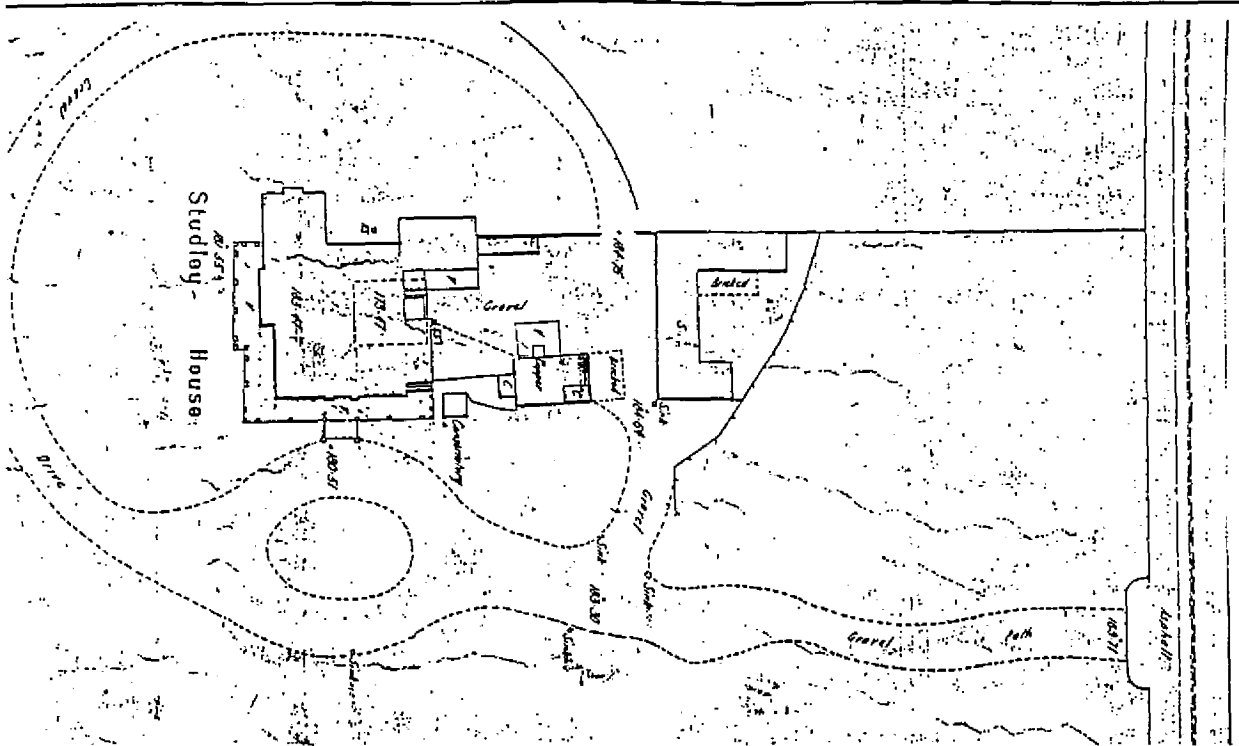
DESIGNATION A
CITATION NO.3



East facade: original symmetrical house on the left, 1919 additions on the right.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

Research indicates that the original section of this house was built for John Hodgson, MLC², and that the N.A.V. of the building at that stage was £200³. The name 'Studley House' was first recorded in the Kew Rate Books in 1862 when, in 1860, James McEvoy, squatter, had purchased the property⁴. McEvoy commissioned the architect William J. Ellis to make alterations to the house in 1875⁵. When the building was purchased by the notorious bookmaker John Wren⁶, he commissioned the contractor W.M. Murphy to add the very large north-east wing to the house that included a second entrance hall, a large lounge room, a bedroom wing of five rooms, a billiard room and stage projection box for movies⁷. The original house was symmetrical with a double storeyed colonnade of ionic on Tuscan orders supporting a parapet with urns. The addition was very sympathetically detailed to reflect the original. The building is currently owned by the Jesuit Fathers and accommodates the preparatory school for Xavier College⁸.



'Studley House', c.1903. Prior to 1919 additions (MMBW Plan No.1289)

SIGNIFICANCE

The Statement of Significance given in the Australian Heritage Commission is given here: "'Studley House", 15 Nolan Avenue, Kew, is an early house, extensively added to, which is of architectural importance in its present form and has important historical associations with John Hodgson, an early settler in the district and with subsequent owners. The first part of the house is an early and particularly fine example of the Italianate style in Victoria. The later additions dwarf the original house but are of interest in their own right. Plaster and woodwork internally and some stained glass are notable'.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HBR: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

GBR: N/A

RNE: Registered.

National Trust: Classified No.1164.

¹ National Trust of Aust.(Vic), 'Research into 'Studley House'...', 4 August 1975

² *ibid.*

³ *ibid.*

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ Architects' Index, University of Melbourne

⁶ National Trust of Aust.(Vic), *ibid.*

⁷ *ibid.*

⁸ *ibid.*