

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

329 Burwood Road

TYPE

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

TITLE

former H. King Funeral Parlour

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 *June/Nov.'9*

NEG FILE *44.35.*

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 *1903-1904*

Architect

Builder

Elements -

*Brick funeral parlour,
open land on each side.*



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

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY Good
 Fair
 Poor

CONDITION Good
 Fair
 Poor

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden

329 BURWOOD ROAD

FORMER H. KING FUNERAL PARLOUR

HISTORY

Herbert King, who was descended from the founder of the colony of Victoria's oldest undertaking business, redeveloped the undertaking premises at 329 Burwood Road in 1903-4 as one of the branches of his Richmond headquarters.¹ King came to Richmond in the early 1880s and when he died at his residence, "Kingsley", in Lennox Street in 1913, he left a massive 15,659 pounds reality and 5,235 pounds personally. One writer comments that King "was a businessman to the end" for, although an Anglican, he left generous benefits to St. Ignatius, St. Stephen's and the Presbyterian Church.² King was a Richmond Councillor.³ Constructed in the Gothic Revival style, the Burwood Road funeral parlour followed the stylistic precedent set by Crouch and Wilson's Church of the Immaculate Conception at 343-7 Burwood Road. King's building forms part of a notable group of buildings in the Glenferrie - Burwood Roads commercial/civic precinct.

Description

Building on the prominent Gothic revival buildings a little further along Burwood Road, this simple funeral parlour utilizes basic gothic detailing to evoke a religious image.

On the ground floor, pointed arches to the openings are defined by bricks in contrasting colour, extending to form a string course at the springing point. Above, the pointed arches are emphasised by an applied string course in render. Similar simple render detailing is applied to the parapet gable. On each side urns and masks adorn the termination of first floor pilasters. In the centre of the gable a windvane takes the place of a cross in religious design.

The building may have had a street verandah in the past. Open space on each side contributes to its presence in the Street.

Assessment

A rudimentary essay in gothic revival based on the simple features of small Methodist and Anglican Churches common in the late nineteenth century e.g. Uniting Church, Woollert (1878) and Healesville Uniting Church 1860. Its use here is architecturally interesting for the associated religious connotation it gives to the funeral parlour. The unusual two storey form, at such low scale gives the building a dolls house image which contributes to its eye catching quality similar to Crouch and Wilson's Chinese Mission Church in Little Bourke Street of 1872. The land use was typical of the mixed use activity in this block of Burwood Road, close to the bridge, the commercial centre, prominently located on the major Hawthorn transport link and close to

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1. National Trust File No. 5601; Graeme Butler *Upper Hawthorn*, Commercial Area Conservation Study, 1983, pp.277-278.
 2. Janet McCalman, *Struggletown*. Public and Private Life in Richmond. 1900-1965, M.V.P., 1984, p.16.
 3. Ibid. pp.39-40.

329 Burwood Road continued

the preponderance of churches in the heart of Hawthorn block. Primarily significant for its historical association with King, the early Melbourne undertaker.

Significance

Metropolitan

1. Linked with the early history of undertaking in Melbourne through the owner Herbert King.
2. A substantially intact funeral parlour from the early twentieth century illustrating community based funeral facilities.
3. A landmark in Burwood Road and an important part of the Catholic Church group.

