

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

14 St. Columb Street

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 []
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 91.*
NEG FILE *03.04-06.*
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 *1889*
Architect
Builder *John William Allen.*
Elements



- 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 []

Note: verandah 90% removed. Rear under repair.
CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION
Associated significant garden []

14 ST. COLOMB STREET

HISTORY

John William Allen, builder, was the first owner, and most probably the builder, in 1889 of the timber villa (NAV 36 pounds) on the corner of St. Colomb Street and Oxley Road. It was occupied then and for a number of years by William F. Remington, listed at first as a clerk and later as an accountant.⁹ Allen built a number of timber houses in Oxley Road including Nos. 33, 35 and 37 adjacent to 14 St. Colomb Street.¹⁰ The house occupied by Remington was listed in the rate books on the north side of Oxley Road for some years.

Allen appears to have been among the victims of the 1890s depression for, by 1893, his St. Colomb Street house was owned by the Federal Bank in liquidation. It was described as a wooden house of six rooms, NAV 46 pounds, occupied still by Remington.¹¹ Remington seems to have prospered again and, by 1896, the owner was listed as William F. Remington, accountant. In that year, 14 St. Colomb Street, listed still in Oxley Road, north side, was rated as a wood house of six rooms, NAV 34 pounds.¹² The house was shown in a 1902 MMBW drainage plan with an ornate front garden design facing Oxley Road. It matched the garden design of its neighbour at 37 Oxley Road, although it featured circular garden beds while those at No. 37 were diamond-shaped. At this time there was an L-shaped front verandah on the St. Colomb/Oxley Road corner of 14 St. Colomb Street and the main entrance was on that corner. The house was not numbered.¹³ The block fronted timber building is typical for its date except for the elaborate timber fascia.

Significance

This timber house with its unusually elaborate fascia detail (probably as a result of the work of its first builder/owner), has historical significance as an example of the fine villas in garden settings constructed during the 1880s boom years in middle-class suburban Hawthorn. Like so many other Victorian properties, it fell into the hands of the Banks during the 1890s depression. This building has interesting associations with a prolific local builder, who constructed a number of timber villas in the vicinity during the 1880s. It is in good condition despite the loss of 90 per cent of its Victorian verandah.

⁹. Hawthorn RB 1889-90 No. 4967.

¹⁰. MMBW Drainage Plan No. 1501 (1902); Gwen McWilliam, *Hawthorn Peppercorns*, Hawthorn, 1978, p.162; Biographical Index, 1888 (Local History Collection, Hawthorn City Library).

¹¹. Hawthorn RB 1893-94 No. 3528.

¹². Ibid. 1896-97 No. 3515.

¹³. MMBW Drainage Plan Hawthorn No. 1501 (1902).



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