

## 867 GLENFERRIE ROAD, 'BUTLEIGH WOOTTON'

Original Use: Residence  
Date of Construction: 1885<sup>1</sup>  
Architect: Unknown

DESIGNATION A  
CITATION NO.12



### HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

In the Boroondara land sale of 18 September 1851 Patrick Mornane purchased the 69 acres of Lot 73<sup>2</sup> fronting onto Glenferrie Road. Subsequently, in the early 1870s, the Jesuit Fathers of East Melbourne paid Mornane £10,000 for the entire property<sup>3</sup>, thereby securing the site of Xavier College (q.v). The ongoing expense of building the college necessitated the Fathers to sell a portion of their holdings and in 1882 Thomas Maidment paid £5,750 for nine allotments along Barkly Road (now Glenferrie Road)<sup>4</sup>. Maidment, who had arrived in Australia from the Glastonbury district in England in 1858<sup>5</sup>, owned and managed a number of sheep stations in Victoria and subsequently became an '... eminently respectable ...' member of Western District society<sup>6</sup>.

In 1883 the Rate Books list Maidment's land in Barkly Road as the 'Buxton Hill Estate' and it was given an N.A.V. of £90<sup>7</sup>, while in the following year his property attracted an N.A.V. of £160, suggesting that substantial improvements were taking place. Maidment's two-storey mansion, named 'Butleigh Wootton' after his birth-place in England<sup>8</sup>, was completed in 1885 and was given an initial N.A.V. of £420<sup>9</sup>. While Maidment is recorded as the owner of the building until at least 1896<sup>10</sup> Jane Maidment, his wife, continued the family ownership of the twenty-six roomed house with its extensive grounds until at least 1910<sup>11</sup>.

The building is now used as a reception centre. It is a substantial two storeyed house built in the Italianate style common in the 1880s. Its walls are rendered and it has limited applied decoration that includes brackets to the eaves line and engaged ionic columns under a broken pediment over the front entrance. The bowed window unit is of particular distinction and is not at all typical of this type of building.

### SIGNIFICANCE

'Butleigh Wootton' is of significance as a substantially intact large house of the late Victorian period and as such, is one of the key Victorian buildings to have been built in Kew. It is of particular distinction for the graceful and unusual arrangement of the bow window.

side of the building as well as internally, however the overall original appearance of the building remains  
17. The RSL continues to occupy the property.

#### SIGNIFICANCE

This house, originally named 'Wilton', is of significance as a very progressive house design of the 1880s by Guyon Purchas, that has remained in a substantially intact state. It is also of significance for having been built as the residence and practice rooms of Dr Walsh during his period as one of the long serving local medical practitioners of the area.

#### HERITAGE LISTINGS

HBR: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

GBR: N/A

RNE: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

National Trust: Not currently listed.

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<sup>1</sup> City of Kew, Rate Books, 1885-1886

<sup>2</sup> *Kew and Hawthorn Express*, 5 November 1886

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

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> Rogers, D., *A History of Kew*, p.88

<sup>6</sup> City of Kew, Rate Books, July 1885

<sup>7</sup> *ibid.*, March 1886

<sup>8</sup> *Kew and Hawthorn Express*, *loc.cit.*

<sup>9</sup> City of Kew, Rate Books, October 1886

<sup>10</sup> *Kew and Hawthorn Express*, *loc.cit.*

<sup>11</sup> M.B. Lewis, 'Following the Red Brick Road'. Paper delivered at the SAHANZ Conference, 1986.

<sup>12</sup> Rogers, *op.cit.*, p.89

<sup>13</sup> *Kew and Hawthorn Express*, *loc.cit.*

<sup>14</sup> Rogers, D., *loc.cit.*

<sup>15</sup> Kew Local History Collection, Photograph No.34

<sup>16</sup> Rogers, *op.cit.*, p.90

<sup>17</sup> *ibid.*

63 Cotham Road is cited as "a very progressive house design of the 1880s by Guyon Purchas, that has remained in a substantially intact state". It is also of an unusual design, with few comparative examples to be found in Victoria. It is therefore recommended that it retain its A classification and be nominated for inclusion on the Register of Historic Buildings.