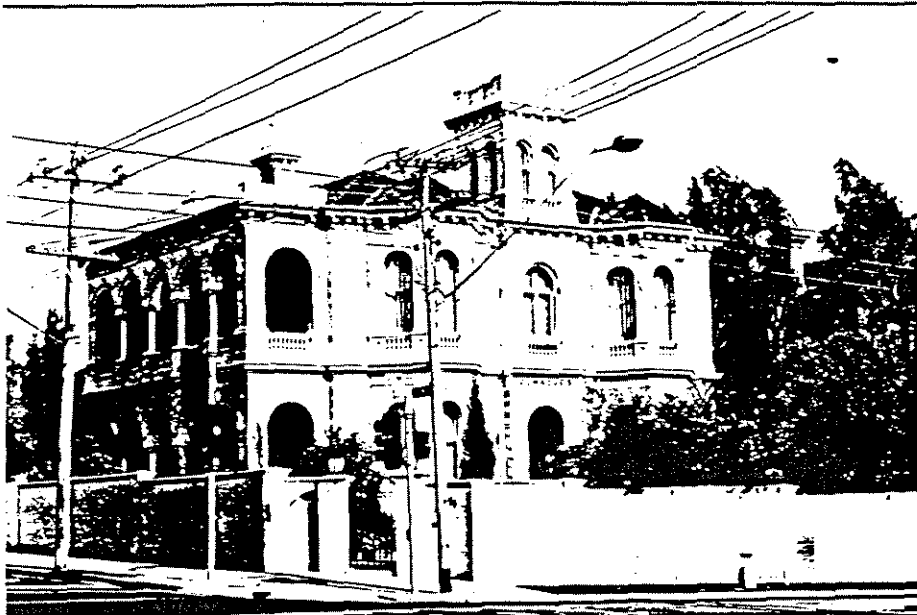


896 GLENFERRIE ROAD, 'COMAQUES'

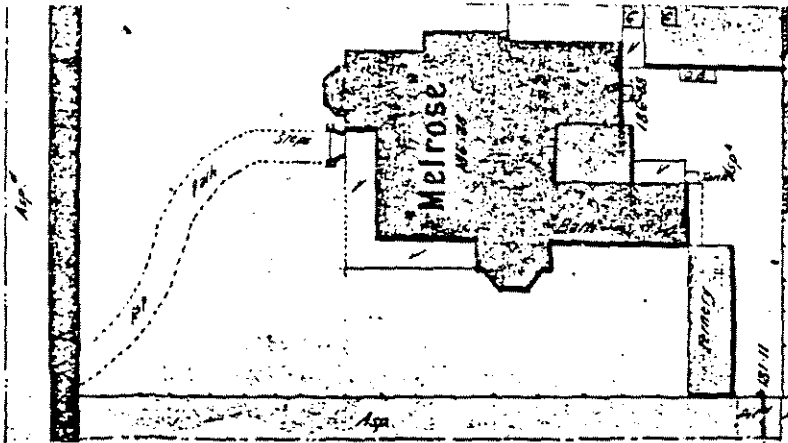
Original Use: Residence  
Date of Construction: 1891<sup>1</sup>  
Architect: Alfred White<sup>2</sup>

DESIGNATION A  
CITATION NO.29



#### HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

The first documentary evidence of this two-storey mansion comes from Rate Books that record the leading architect Alfred White as the original owner and occupier of this building<sup>3</sup>. Having an initial N.A.V. of £160<sup>4</sup>, the house was purchased by a warehouseman Henry Lister, by 1900, when the N.A.V. was recorded at £111<sup>5</sup>. By the turn of the century the house was known as 'Comaques'<sup>6</sup>. White's house is a two storeyed rendered mansion and is composed and decorated in the Italianate style. It is dominated by a balustraded three storeyed tower over the front entrance that is flanked by two polygonal bay window units. A two storeyed loggia spans down the Wellington Street facade. The house remains substantially intact although the roof has been replaced by a terracotta tile roof and some of the parapet decoration has been removed. Although quite typical of the Italianate design of the time, it is unusually extensive in scale.



'Melrose' 1903, (MMBW Plan No.1574)

#### SIGNIFICANCE

The former 'Melrose' is of significance as an intact house of the late Victorian period that has an unusual combination of ornamentation applied in a number of materials. It is also of significance as an unusual and intact example of de Garis's work.

#### HERITAGE LISTINGS

HBR: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

GBR: N/A

RNE: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

National Trust: Not currently listed.

<sup>1</sup> City of Kew, Rate Books, 1889

<sup>2</sup> *The Australasian Builder and Contractors' News*, 6 April 1889

<sup>3</sup> City of Kew, Rate Books, loc.cit.

<sup>4</sup> *The Australian Builder and Contractor's News*, 13 April 1889, p.346

<sup>5</sup> City of Kew, Rate Books, loc.cit.

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.*, 1895

<sup>7</sup> M.M.B.W., 'Plan of Kew - 1574', Scale: 40 feet to 1 inch, May 1903

<sup>8</sup> *ABCN*, loc.cit.,

The external integrity of this building and its associations with a leading Victorian architect, Frederick de Garis, suggest that this building is a suitable candidate for nomination to the Historic Buildings Council.