

Westford, 2 Ash Grove

Architect: A H Fisher

1890: Illustration and description in *Building and Engineering Journal*, 28 June, 1890

n.d.: MMBW Detail Plan No 2502, 40 feet to the inch.

1891: Alfred Wilton, occupier

1901-14: Mr Harrie Ford (clerk) was the owner/occupier of the house known as Westford

1914-21: Mr Stanley Rodda, Principal of The Working Mens' College (RMIT) was the owner/occupier

1921-29: Westford became The Grange School for Boys with the Misses Turner as it's principals. During this time a large open verandah was added to the top story for use as a dormitory. The weatherboard building behind the house was built and divided into 3 classrooms.

n.d. [1920s]: Proposed rear balcony for school dormitory (Malvern Building Plan)

1930-42: Horace Hawkins, plumber, owner/occupier

1937: The land facing Oak Grove was subdivided and sold to speculators. The weatherboard building remained as a scout hall until its demolition in 1991.

1942-52: Owner, Mrs Ouida Wilkinson occupied 'Westford' with her uncle, Sam Grainger, artist. The house was now divided into 2 flats.

1952-69: Harold Glowery, Chairman of the Wheat Board, owner/occupier.

(Malvern Rate Books and Sands & McDougall Directories. Compiled by Di Foster, Malvern Historical Society Inc.)

Except for the years 1921-29 when it was The Grange School, run by Misses E & M Turner, the building has been used as a private residence throughout its life.

The use of half-timbered upper storey above a masonry base is characteristic of the 'Old English' style; as is the use of red brick work including tall strapped chimneys. Elements of particular interest include the use of cement in place of plaster, the hollow brick walls at ground floor level, and the elaborately decorated moulded panels in the gable ends. Significant front and side elevations have suffered only minor changes, but there have been more extensive alterations to the rear over many years.

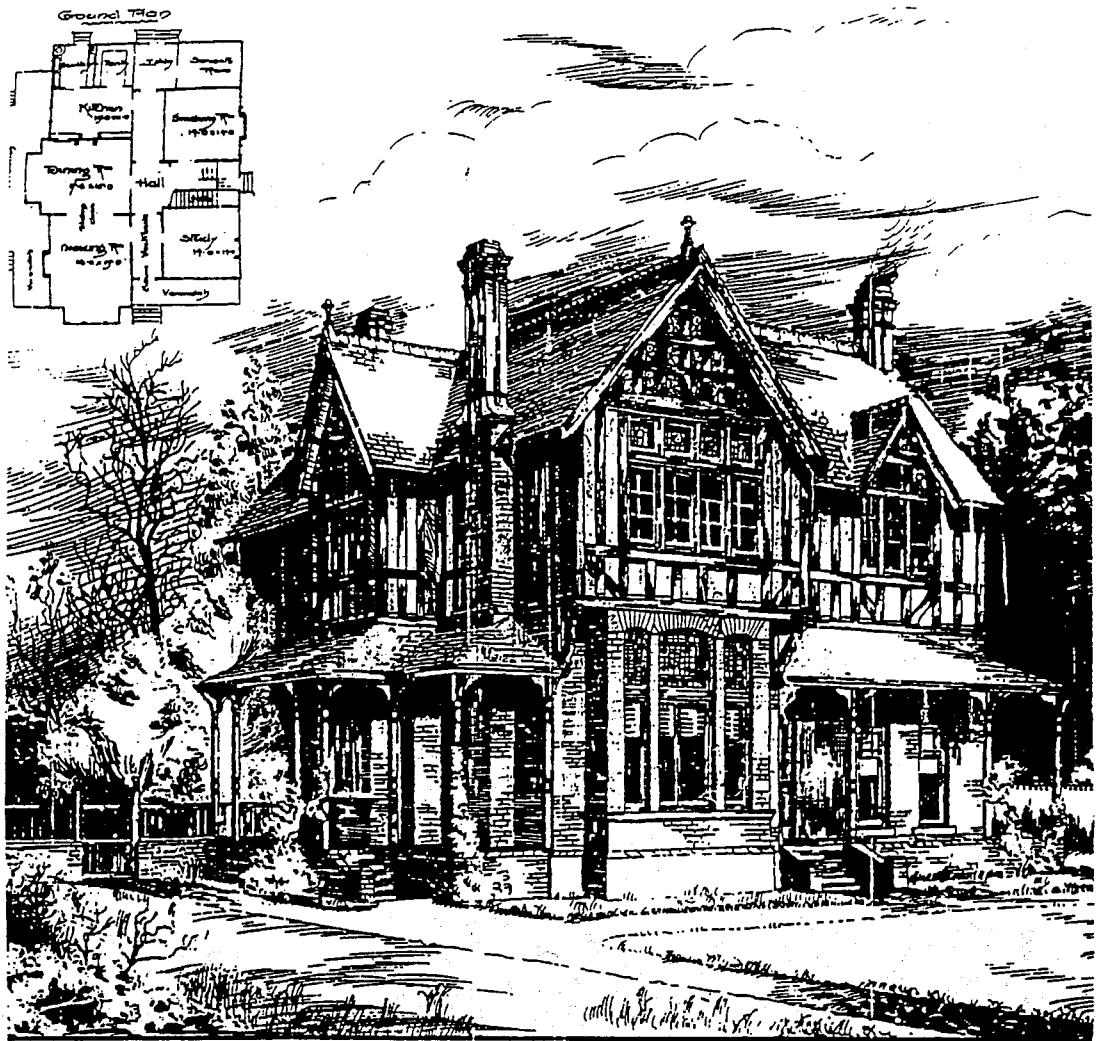


Even if one includes H H Kemp's design for Woodlands at Essendon (1888), in which only the gables are half-timbered, the East Malvern house is still one of only four known comparable extant examples, and one of only two in Victoria. It is clearly of state significance and is arguably of national significance.

Refer to Appendix One for biographical notes on architect.

Westford is of state significance as one of the earliest examples in Australia of the half-timbered 'Old English' style as found in the works of W Eden Nesfield and R Norman Shaw, in England in the 1860s and 1870s. (1)

1 Extract from National Trust Classification Report.



WILLIAMS AND WALLACE, CONTRACTORS.

HOUSE AT MALVERN, VICTORIA.