

Carmyle, 7 Carmyle Avenue

1879-88: Fiskien, Archibald

1886: Simpson, Colin

1907-17: Poolman, Ernest and Poolman, Mrs Belinda. Named Carmyle.

1918: Williams, Mrs Mary

1902: MMBW 40 foot to the inch plan shows Carmyle with gates at the corner of Malvern and Kooyong Road, a service drive from Malvern Road and main elevations to the west and south with a service wing and outbuildings and stables all now demolished, mostly for the 1918 subdivision. (derived from National Trust File No 909)

1918: Auction of Carmyle Estate which extended from Kooyong Road to Albany Road (Auction plan 1918, Malvern Historical Society Inc)

1925: Plans for alterations for J.B.Overall by Ballantyne and Hare, showing the new street entry on the east for apartments on the first floor (Malvern Building Plan 4172)

Carmyle at 7 Carmyle Avenue Toorak was erected in 1879 for prominent Scottish born pastoralist, stock-agent and Government Land Tax Commissioner, Archibald Fiskien. The 20 room two storey brick and stucco mansion, designed in the Conservative Italianate tradition, was acquired by Colin Simpson, a retired Western District pastoralist in 1886.

Carmyle has lost its original vast grounds and service wing and outbuildings. The surviving main section has been restored as a private house and medical consulting rooms with a new street facade dating from 1925. This conversion followed the construction of the apartments at 1 Carmyle Avenue and was undertaken by the same architects, Ballantyne & Hare. The balance of the building fabric is well maintained and appreciably intact externally, although altered internally.

While it has been suggested that F.M. White designed Carmyle, this reference appears to refer to a house designed for Simpson, and not Fiskien. (1)



Carmyle is of regional significance as a typical Melbourne mansion house styled in the popular Conservative Italianate tradition of the 1870s. It has been attributed to, and is characteristic of, the work of important Victorian architect, F M White. The Ballantyne and Hare refacing of the truncated service wing adds a distinctive architectural character. Archibald Fiskien, a noted pioneer pastoralist, stock agent and public identity built the mansion, but occupied it for only 7 years (1879-1886). (2)

- 1 White designed Colin Simpson's house in Toorak, see *Victoria and its Metropolis*, 1888, Vol 2 p.542.
- 2 Adapted from the National Estate citation.