

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA)RESEARCH INTO 21 ELGIN AVENUE, PRAHRAN.Ref. No. 4194

A well-preserved large two-storeyed house at 21 Elgin Avenue Prahran,⁽¹⁾ now owned by Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Melbourne and occupied by the Hungarian Youth Club,⁽²⁾ was built in 1899/1900 by the Victorian Permanent Building Society.⁽³⁾ Founded by James Munro, MLA for North Melbourne and Carlton and Premier of Victoria, in the 1860s this Society became the largest in Melbourne and owned a large number of properties.⁽⁴⁾ In 1900 the new building in Wynnstay Avenue, East Side, former name of Elgin Avenue, a ten-roomed brick house, became the property of Mary Windsor and was let to Thomas Wallace, draper.⁽⁵⁾ Mary Windsor was owner still in 1913.⁽⁶⁾

A 1901 MMBW plan of City of Prahran shows 21 Elgin Avenue with verandahs at front and back. A long drive from the rear of the building, where there were probably stables, leads to an entrance in Wynnstay Avenue. Its grounds stretch from Wynnstay Avenue to Hampden Street.⁽⁷⁾ It stands next to "Wynnstay" a large house set in grounds bounded on three sides by Wynnstay Avenue, High Street and Hampden Street. "Wynnstay" is listed in 1900/91 City of Prahran Rate Book as a sixteen-roomed wooden house owned by Victorian Permanent Building Society and occupied by Benjamin White, clergyman.⁽⁸⁾

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- (1) Known earlier as 22 Elgin Ave. and Wynnstay Ave., E. Side.
 - (2) City of Prahran RB 1969-1977, Windsor Ward Book 3.
 - (3) Ibid 1899/1900, Windsor Ward entry after RB 8136. "New House".
 - (4) M. Cannon, The Land Boomers, p. 79
 - (5) City of Prahran RB 1900/1901, Windsor Ward RB 8139.
 - (6) Ibid 1913/14, Windsor Ward RB 9806.
 - (7) MMBW City of Prahran. Detail Plan No. 996 (1901)
 - (8) City of Prahran RB 1900/1901, Windsor Ward RB 8138.

Victorian directories show that during the 1940s 21 Elgin Avenue became known as Elgin Hall Guest House. From the 1960s, when it was purchased for £30,000 by R. C. Trust Corp., it has been tenanted by Rev. Fr. Andrew Zoltan Varga and used by the Hungarian Youth Club. In 1959/60 £1300 was spent on alterations and a further \$4500 was spent in 1964 on brick veneer additions.⁽⁹⁾

(9) Ibid 1969-1977, Windsor Ward Book 3.

LIST OF SOURCES:

Cannon, M., The Land Boomers, MUP, 1966.

City of Prahran Rate Books, Windsor Ward.

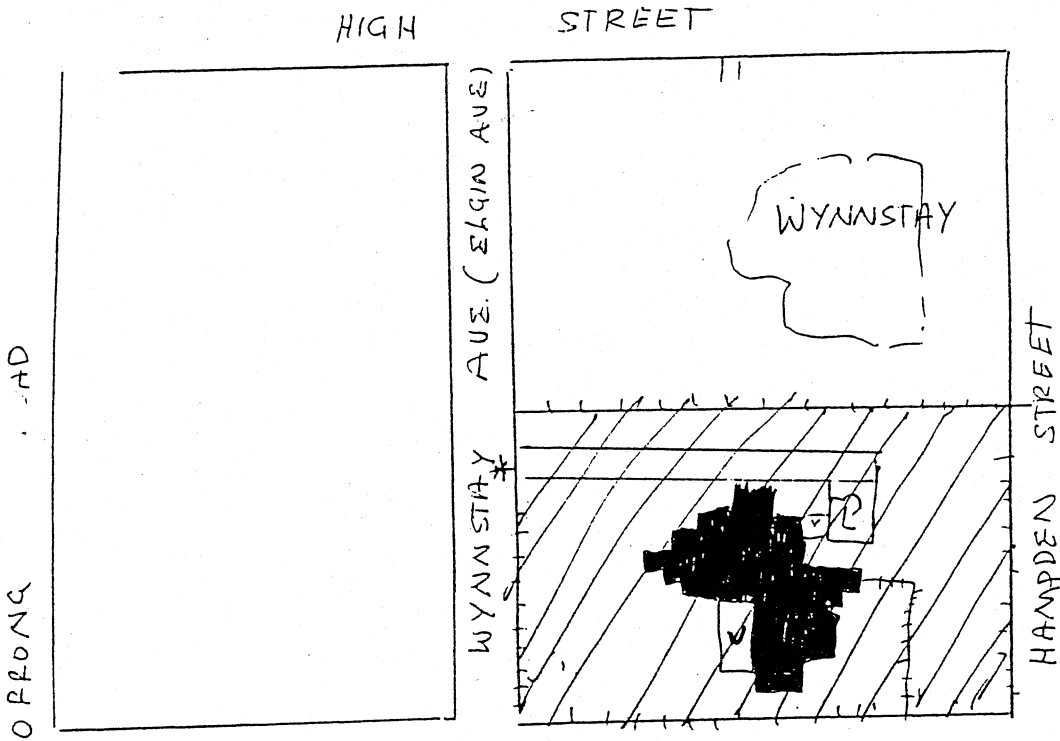
MMBW City of Prahran. Detail Plan No. 996 (1901)

C. KELLAWAY

7 Dec. 1977

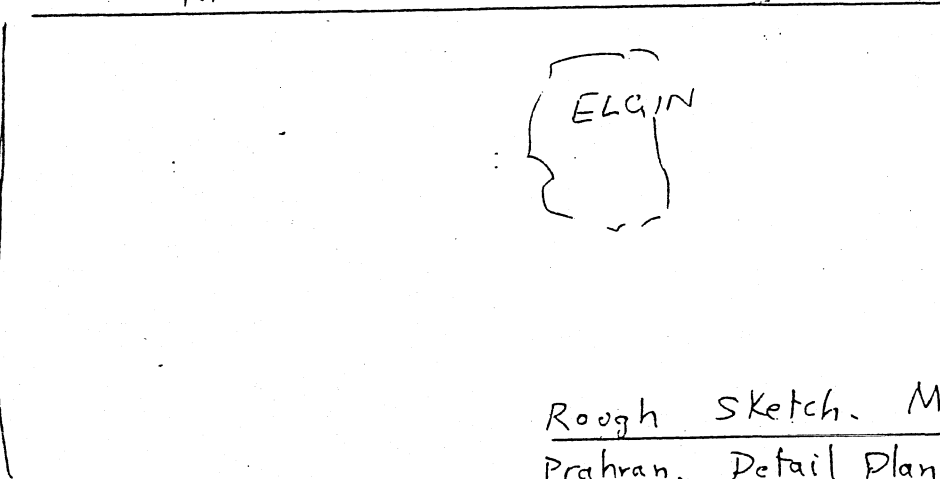
21 Elgin Ave., Prahran.

1901.



OPPOSITE AD

RT. of Way



Rough sketch. MMBW. City of
Prahran. Detail Plan No. 996 (1901) (S.L.V.)
(shows * entrance to 21 Elgin Ave,
Prahran).