

'AVOCA'

8 Gordon Grove
South Yarra Vic. 3141.

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P/06/06



BUILDING CITATION

'Avoca' now at 8 Gordon Grove, South Yarra, was erected c.1848 on a large suburban allotment fronting the River Yarra near the Punt Road crossing place. The single storey cream brick house with slate roof, ornate timber gable boards, wide decorated timber verandah and prominent chimney pots, was erected for William Montgomerie Bell and is an outstanding elaborate picturesque gothic revival design of unknown origin.

'Avoca' is of architectural importance as a rare surviving example of the picturesque gothic revival mode in Melbourne and is a notable translation of contemporary British traditions to the Australian context. The finely crafted building is of historic importance as one of the first houses in the South Yarra district erected for little known, but influential, W.M. Bell, a pioneer councillor, merchant and the fifth Mayor of Melbourne. The original allotment included possibly the first vineyard south of the Yarra.

'Avoca' survives in an intact condition and the exterior, save for recent sympathetic additions, is of high integrity. The interior has been modified and redecorated, but the essential details and qualities remain unaltered.

Of State significance.

PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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