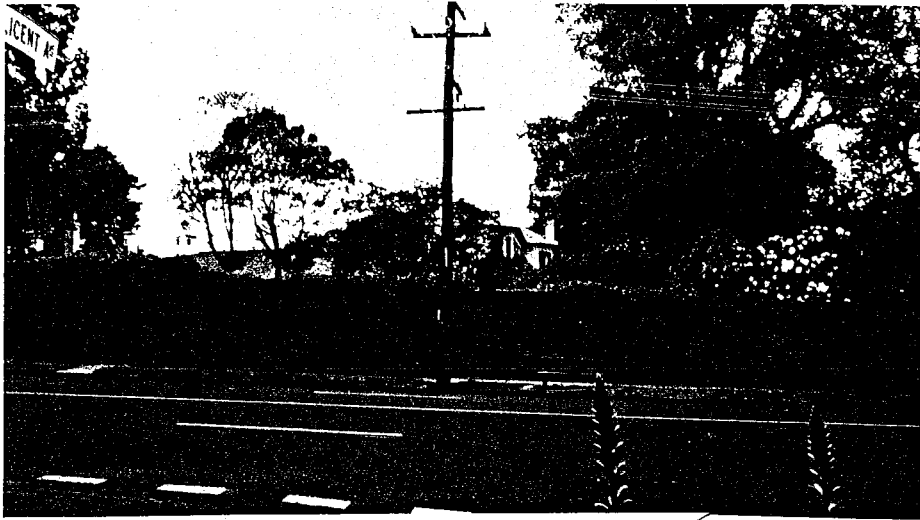


'MIEGUNYAH'

641 Orrong Road, Toorak



Recommendations It is recommended that this building be added to the Register of Historic Buildings, Register of the National Estate and be protected using the provisions of Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

History and Description The history of 'Miegunyah' began in the 1850s when John Goodman, a squatter and a Prahran Councillor (1861-62) occupied a six roomed house on ten acres of land. Named 'Miegunyah' from this time, the house remained in the possession of the Goodmans until 1881 when it together with fifteen acres of land, was purchased by J. J. Smart. Various additions were made to the residence from this time and also after Russell Grimwade acquired it in 1908. 'Miegunyah' became a two storey, twelve roomed house on two acres of land and remained in the Grimwade family until 1974 when it became the possession of the University of Melbourne. The house appears to have grown in a random manner with major alterations occurring in 1920 and 1932 with the leading Melbourne architect Harold Desbrowe Annear being involved with some of the work undertaken. 'Miegunyah', with its later entrance and columns and grand, two storey internal spaces still stands in its impressive two acre garden which was set out by the Grimwades.

Significance 'Miegunyah' retains its large private garden which is well maintained and includes some trees which possibly date from the 1850s. However the Grimwades are largely responsible for the garden which may have involved work by Edna Walling and Ellis Stones. It includes a sweeping lawn, box-hedged rose garden, birch copse and native aboretum and is an important and intact example of a city mansion garden. The house itself is also of interest, especially in its historic setting.

Intactness The garden is maintained in excellent condition and the house, as it has grown randomly is substantially intact.

References

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