

1088 Malvern Road - R

Architects: Klingender & Alsop

1916: Owner, Mrs F A Finlay, 'Thalia', Orrong Road, Toorak. Agent, Klingender & Alsop, 90 William St. Melb (MMBW Drainage Plan 102982)

1947 & 1950: Lawson, Hon. Sir Henry (Sutherland Wightman) former Victorian Premier & Commonwealth Minister (Who's Who)

An imposing two storey house of relatively simple design. Architectural interest is created by the projecting shingled and belled balcony over the side entry porch, the loggia on the front facade which has paired timber columns rising from a brick balustrade with steeply angled brackets of a mediaeval character. Above this is a recessed loggia which has been infilled. There are few major projections other than a small bay in the front elevation. The hipped terracotta tiled roof is echoed on the loggia on the front elevation. Windows are of a simple Georgian Revival character with shutters and the unpainted concrete lintels provide some contrast with the predominant use of red brick. Internally, the house has seen few changes and features unpainted stained ceiling beams, door, window and stair joinery. The house is very restrained for this early period, using simple massing of forms to create architectural character. The house is situated at the end of a deep block with an extraordinary garden with massive trees and secluded lawn areas. A low crimped wire fence with timber posts and rails fence adds to the special character of the landscaping of this property. The house is apparently totally intact including the garden.

1088 Malvern road is of regional significance for its garden setting and the intactness and simple strength of design, unusual for this early date. The lack of ostentation makes a dramatic comparison with other developments in the area. This house can be compared with the Wertheim residence, Whernside Avenue, also by the same renowned firm of architects. Large expanses of red brickwork and terracotta tiles provide an architectural character which avoids the elaborate excesses of some of the other revival styles of that period. It is also of historic significance for its association with HSW Lawson, a prominent state and federal politician.