

**Stanhope Street Boom style villas**

(44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 86, 88 and 92 Stanhope Street - R

44 Stanhope Street (Roma)

1887: Wright Land (9 rms.)

1888: Scott, John (ironmonger) Hse. & land

1889: Mellor Alf. Bk. hse. 7 r.

46 Stanhope Street (Branskea)

1887: Major, Ed. 9r Bk. H.

1888: Major, Ed. L. (acc.) Hse. & land

1889: Major Edw. Bk. hse. 8 r.

48 Stanhope Street (Coimboon)

1889: Patterson Thomas Bk. 5 r.

50 Stanhope Street (Inverleith)

1889: Scott J. Bk. 7 r.

52 Stanhope Street (Darjeeling)

1889: Palmer Ed. Bk. 8 r.

54 Stanhope Street (Castledon)

1889: Williams Bk. hse. in prog.

56 Stanhope Street (Hintonville)

1889: Huntzman Benj. Bk. hse in prog.

86 & 88 Stanhope Street

1889 John Wright - builder

92 Stanhope Street

1889 John Wright builder and owner

(Malvern Rate Books)

NOTE: John Wright appears to be the builder for many of these houses. He is listed as owning several of the lots before construction of the houses. The name of the houses appeared in the rate books in 1894.

1902: Shows this sequence of villas in their original configuration. 40' to the inch plan (MMBW Drainage Plan 1743)

These buildings were first listed in street directories in 1889 and are an excellent example of the richly-decorated suburban villa of the period. They have been used by many people, including Robin Boyd in *Australia's Home* (1), see below, to illustrate an extreme of the Boom style of the late 1880s. They all feature a projecting bay (typically angled) as well as a balustraded parapet to the roof facing the street with a semi-circular pediment and a scalloped shield motif above the house name. They also all had a double curved

iron hipped verandah roof, returning around the corner in the case of Wright's own, more imposing residence. Singly, and without the projecting bay they would be typical of a number of single storey terrace houses in places such as North Carlton. However, the projecting bay with the same balustrade creates a far more elaborate composition. They also feature decorative polychrome brick work (except for 92) beneath the balustraded parapet and elaborate cornice and as well as a hipped cast iron verandah. Whilst these buildings are not all identical, they all share a number of common features. They vary in their integrity and the best examples are No 44, No 50, No 56, No 86, No 88 and No 92. Their external integrity has remained unchanged since 1992, and restoration work or removal of intrusive elements has improved the appearance of several of the group since 1992.

It has been suggested by Miles Lewis that these villas have some similarity to the work of Norman Hitchcock and/or Olaff Nicholson although no tender references have been found to establish a designer. (2)

The villas at 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 86, 88 and 92 Stanhope Street are of regional significance as a unique group that demonstrates the stylistic excesses and flamboyance of the late Boom period. Here, a successful design expression for terrace houses, was translated into a suburban villa format.

1 Robin Boyd, *Australia's Home*, MUP, 1961, p.54.

2 Correspondence to the Malvern Historical Society Inc, 18 August 1992