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| Building: | Gwynton Park (now Kingswood College) | Significance: | B |
| Address: | 355 Station Street, Box Hill South | Melway May Ref: | 61 C1 |
| Building Type: | Residence | Construction Date: | 1907 |
| Architect: | Unknown | Builder: | Unknown |



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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Intactness: | Condition: |
| G[] F[x] P[] | G[x] F[] P[] |
| Existing Heritage Listings: | Recommended Heritage Listings: |
| Victorian Heritage Register [] | Victorian Heritage Register [] |
| Register of the National Estate [] | Register of the National Estate [x] |
| National Trust [] | Heritage Overlay Controls [x] |

History

In 1901 Robert Campbell Edwards owned 24 acres on the west side of Station Street. In 1902, Edwards, built a wooden house on the property for his residence. In 1907, this house was demolished and a new brick house was built there. In the same year, Edwards also purchased an adjoining twelve acres in Station Street. Edwards was a tea merchant, land developer philanthropist who founded the Burwood Boys' Home in 1896.

Edwards planned a substantial estate on the property, and it was intended that this house would serve as the gatehouse to a mansion to be built at the top of the driveway. However, Mrs Edwards considered Box Hill to be too remote from the city, and persuaded her husband to abandon his plans.

In 1910 Edwards leased the house and 24 acres to William Fennell, an accountant. By 1918 Harry Howes, a dairyman, was tenant, the house at that time being described as having ten rooms. Edwards continued as owner in 1927 when he leased the house to John Edmunds, an agent. ¹

New College was established in 1890 by Arthur Stephenson, a Box Hill resident and former teacher at Methodist Ladies College, Kew. The original school was located adjacent to Stephenson's house on the east side of Rose Street, south-east of Box Hill Railway Station. In 1901, the school was renamed Box Hill Grammar School. The school was rescued from possible closure when it was taken over by the Methodist Church in 1928.

In 1929, the school acquired Gwynton Park from Edwards for £10,000 and the students began occupying the new school buildings from 1930. The house served as a residence for the School's boarders, as well as the principal, C F Walker. The school became co-educational from 1936, a fact thought to stem from the principal, C F Walker, having a several daughters to educate. The school was renamed Kingswood College in 1965.

Description

Gwynton Park is an asymmetrical single-storey Edwardian brick villa. Walls are of red face brick with roughcast upper sections. The building has projecting square window bays to the ground floor, and wide dormer windows to the attic, under a tiled roof with terracotta ridge cresting. The chimneys have roughcast tops and terracotta pots. The building has had several additions related to its use as a school.

Comparative Examples

Banff, 29 Albion Road, Box Hill
Hethersett, 141-169 Burwood Highway, Burwood
House, 13 Victoria Crescent, Mont Albert
House, 17 Victoria Crescent, Mont Albert

Significance

Gwynton Park is of historical significance having been associated with children's education and welfare. As Kingswood College, formerly New College and Box Hill Grammar School, it is the oldest surviving private school originally established in the municipality. Historically, Gwynton Park has important associations with Robert Campbell Edwards, an important philanthropist and landowner in the Box Hill area and founder of the Burwood Boy's Home. Although the house is a relatively good example of an Edwardian villa, its significance as such has been diminished by later additions.

Source

Andrew C Ward & Associates. *City of Box Hill Heritage and Conservation Study*. 1990.

Additional Historical Information

Andrew Lemon. *Box Hill*. Melbourne, 1978. pp 95-96, 110, 125, 168, 182.

1 Rate Books 1901, 1902, 1906-7, 1907-8, 1910-11, 1917-18, 1927-28.

