
WISEMAN HOUSE (SAWBRIDGEWORTH)

Location

30 & 32 WIDFORD STREET, GLENROY, MORELAND CITY

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO236

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

Wiseman House is of local architectural and historical significance. The house is the survivor of a pair of mirror-planned mansions built in the 1880s for Glenroy land developers Albert and Arthur Wiseman, who played an important role in the development of the area. The house is one of two known extant 19th century two storey houses constructed in Glenroy. Substantially intact, Wiseman House is a good example of a Victorian boom style mansion and was one of the largest residences in Glenroy. The setting of the house is enhanced by the remnant mature landscape comprising extant mature trees planted during the early history of the site. Though the house is set on only a fraction of its original curtilage, the trees convey some of the grandeur of the site's early history. The trees also contribute to the amenity value of the surrounding landscape, and form local landmarks within the locality.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - Moreland City Council: Local Heritage Places Review, Context Pty Ltd, 2004; Moreland - City of Moreland Heritage Review, Allen Lovell and Associates, 1999;
Construction dates	1887,
Other Names	individual,

Hermes Number 59145

Property Number

Physical Description 1

Wiseman House is a symmetrical two storey rendered brick house with a hipped slated roof with coupled eaves brackets. A two storey cast iron return verandah with ornate friezes and balustrading encircles the house on three sides, supported on Corinthian cast iron columns grouped in pairs. The verandah is further enriched with three small gables at roof level in the centre and at the angled corners, each infilled with cast iron. The central entrance door has sidelights and highlight, and is flanked by tripartite double-hung sash windows. Chimneys have rendered moulded cappings surmounted by barrelled tops.

The unusual rear elevation has two hipped-roofed pavilions flanking a barrel-vaulted central ballroom. The large arched window is not original, and a red brick addition dates from the 1970s or '80s.

Landscape

The significant landscape associated with Wiseman House consists of remnant trees and shrubs, and possibly the path system to the west of the mansion.

The pathways at the front (West) of the house probably follow their original alignment, at least those close to the house. Further investigation is required to ascertain the significance of these paths.

A number of mature trees are extant on the site, namely a Pepper Tree (*Schinus molle* var. *areira*) at the rear (east) of the house, a spreading Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) at the north western corner of the site, a Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*) and three mature Funeral Cypress (*Chamaecyparis funebris*) along the western frontage. A Golden Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium* 'Aureum') hedge is located to the north of the house.

Key Architectural Elements:

Two-storey 19th century Italianate style rare for Glenroy; ornate verandah and balcony; prominent corner siting.

Conservation Guidelines: preferably remove 20th century additions at rear

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>