"Rotherfield" now "Sherwood Hall"

Formerly Rotherfield

Address 14 Hennessy Ave, ELWOOD

Constructed 1890-1891

Category Residential: detached

Designer David C. Askew of Twentyman and Askew

Amendment C 74

Comment Text correction.

Significance (Mapped as a Significant heritage property.)

Rotherfield, now called Sherwood Hall, is of note for the historical basis of its construction, for its illustration of the nature of land development in St. Kilda and Elwood in the early decades of this century, whilst being architecturally typical of mansions of its era.

Primary Source

David Bick in conjunction with Wilson Sayer Core Pty. Ltd., St. Kilda Conservation Study Area 2 Vol. 1, 1984

Other Studies

Description

see History

History

Joseph Cowen Syme was in partnership with his uncle David, running the Age newspaper from 1878 till 1890. The stormy relationship ended when David Syme bought Joseph out for £140,000, resulting in the construction of the 45 room mansion Rotherfield during the latter half of 1890 and first half of 1891. J.C. Syme's forceful character is further illustrated by the court case which followed in 1892, when the contractor sued Syme (and won). He still lived there in the 1910's and his widow Laura until the 1920's, when the building was converted into a guest house. The grounds were subdivided in the later 1920's, Hennessy and Wimbledon Avenues being extended through the estate. Currently the building is flats.

David C. Askew of the firm Twentyman and Askew was the Architect for Rotherfield and Thomas Machin the contractor. The contract was for £8,900.
Thematic Context
unknown

Recommendations
A Ward, Port Phillip Heritage Review, 1998
recommended inclusions:
National Estate Register
Schedule to the Heritage Overlay Table in the City of Port Phillip Planning Scheme

References
City of St. Kilda Rate Books, various years; 1890/91 no. 2009, J.C. Syme, 45 rooms brick (unfinished) - Appendix.
City of St. Kilda subdivision plans, draw 18, plan no. 54 - Appendix.