INVERGOWRIE

21 COPPIN GROVE



HAWTHORN



Some historical notes on the house prepared by Barbara Hamer and members of the Past Students Association.

St. James Park Association celebrating Victoria's 150th Anniversary

SATURDAY 30 MARCH 1985

2.00 - 5.00 p.m.

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'ST. JAMES PARK ASSOCIATION AND INVERGOWRIE'

The St. James Park Association of residents covers the first declared URBAN CONSERVATION AREA in Australia. Most of this area was bought by Sir James Palmer in 1845 and later subdivided.

The house was built in 1846 and named 'Burwood'. A punt had been installed to ferry the materials across the river. The land was thickly wooded and several 'canoe trees' stood close to the house. Now only two remain to show where aborigines obtained bark to make a canoe.

A broad-arrow' can be seen in the bluestone of the stables which indicates that much of the building was probably done by Convicts. The house was originally two-storied but a section of the ceilings were raised early this century and now cannot be used as bedrooms. The dining-room, with paralled cedar-ceiling was built by William Grisold. The historic room contains much of the original furniture including the large table. Many debates concerning the future of the Colony took place here including those to do with the separation of the District of Port Phillip from New South Wales. Sir James Palmer's motto "Vincit qui Patitur"* can be seen above the fireplace. Another interesting feature is the belfry. The bell is still in place which called the workers home from the fields.

*"He conquers who endures".

Barbara Hamer.