

PLACE NAME
ADDRESS
AREA 2

"Kanimbula"
31 Roebuck Street
DATE/PERSON 23.4/RP

LEVEL: B
NEG: 1.15



DATES Construction: 1890

USE Present Use: Residential
Original Use: Same (?)
Alterations?: New verandah roof, sand blasting of brickwork

FORM

Detached
Double storey
Double fronted

STYLE

Victorian

DESCRIPTION (I = Intact A = Altered * = significant)

ROOF

I Slate

WALLS

I Brick
* Sandstone

ROOF FORM

Decoration
Chimneys
* Gable Decoration

VERANDAH

I Form
* Decoration

FENESTRATION

I Windows

FINISHES

I Unpainted:
brick &
stonework

INTERIOR

GARDEN & SETTING

OTHER COMMENTS
Designer?

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

Condition: Excellent
Integrity: Intact

THREATS

Over restoration

DESCRIPTION

A triple-bay brown brick Victorian double-storey house, with a gable slate roof across and the right-hand bay set forward, as a gable. The side bays have segmented head window pairs, except for the lower right (in the gable wing), which is tripartite. The verandah is in the angle (now with a new roof). It has cast-iron posts, lace valence and brackets. The house has quoins, a string course and window-facings with corner blocks and sills on brackets. The gables have elaborately decorative fretwork barges and upper sections with a turned pendant. The chimneys have sandstone dressings, including a battered cap.

The windows and chimney details are apparently influenced by Viollet-le-Duc.

HISTORY

Henry Gilson Roebuck, a leading Geelong dentist, was the first owner in 1890 of "Kanimbula", an imposing double-storey brick residence in Elizabeth Street (later known as Roebuck Street)⁴¹⁰. The house is described in the Newtown rate book of that year as a two storey brick house, NAV 83 pounds⁴¹¹. The name "Kanimbula" was recorded for the first time in the 1911-12 Newtown rate book, when the address was given as 33 Elizabeth Street⁴¹². In 1927, when Roebuck was still the owner/occupier and the NAV was 118 pounds, the numbering changed to 31 Elizabeth Street⁴¹³. Roebuck's business address was at 41 Malop Street, Geelong.

Biographical information about Roebuck and a photograph appeared in The Cyclopaedia of Victoria (1903). Born at sea on the ship "Larpent" which arrived at Geelong in 1849, Henry Gilson was the son of Henry Roebuck, who became town treasurer of Geelong for 27 years. Henry Gilson was educated at Geelong and then articled to a well-known dentist, Richard Heath. In 1872 he started a business of his own in Malop Street, Geelong. In the same year he married a daughter of Richard Clarke, a well-known Geelong merchant. Roebuck took a great interest in yachting, was a member of the council of the Gordon Institute and as "an ardent devotee to the art of photography" became president of the Amateur Photographic Association⁴¹⁴.

SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1890 for Henry Gilson Roebuck, a leading Geelong dentist, this house is typical of the imposing double-storey residences built in Newtown for important local business and professional men. It has regional historical significance for its associations with Roebuck, who ran a successful business in Malop Street, Geelong. It has regional architectural significance as an important late Victorian house in a particularly subtle and restrained manner for its date. Elements such as the chimneys, the architraves and upper gable decoration are remarkable. Of particular interest is the apparent influence on some details of Viollet le Duc whose Dictionnaire (1854-68) was in the library of at least one Geelong architect (Alexander Davidson).

410. Newtown rate book 1890-91, North Ward, No 48.

411. Ibid.

412. Ibid 1911-12 No 57.

413. Ibid 1927 No 69.

414. The Cyclopaedia of Victoria, vol. III, p.446.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Existing Listings NONE

Recommend'ns RNE LPS
 Area 2
 Place
