

PLACE NAME: BLUESTONE STABLES, 327 SHANNON AVE. NE.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF NEWTOWN.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (References)

STYLE OR PERIOD: Vernacular.

ARCHITECT(S)/DESIGN ORIGIN:

Reference:

BUILDER:

Reference:

PRINCIPAL ARTISANS/ARTISTS/TRADES

Reference:

TENDER NOTICE:

Reference:

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION

C.1896

Reference:

ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE

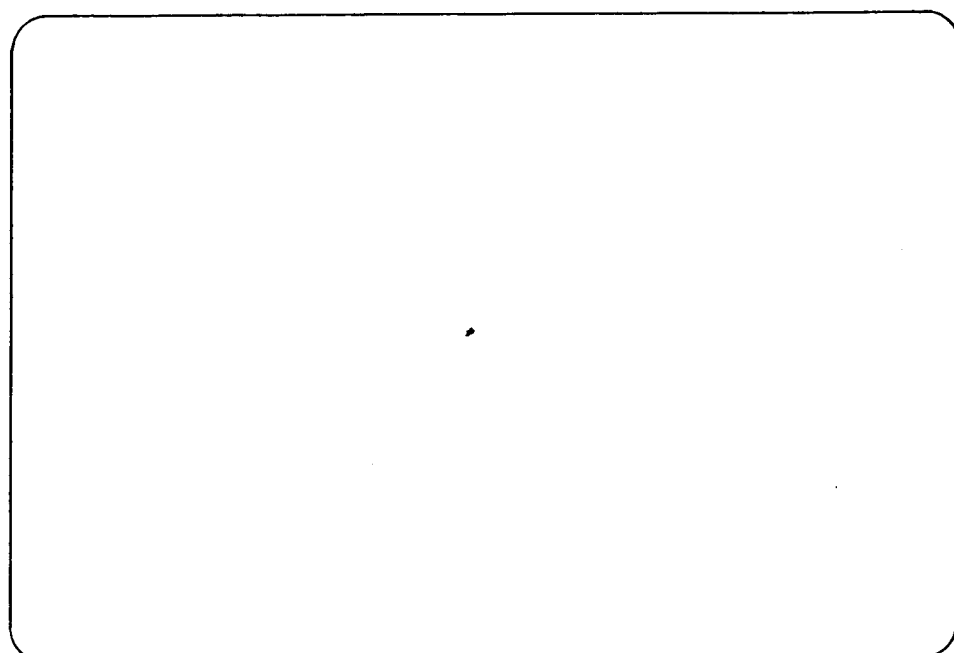
SUBSEQUENT WORKS/ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

The original bluestone stables have been extensively modified and the premises converted to commercial usage. No important associations are apparent.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S)/OCCUPANT(S) Not known.

SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/OCCUPANTS

OTHER NOTES



NEGATIVE FILE:

Australian Heritage Commission
Register of National Estate

Historic Buildings Preservation Council
Register No.
File No.

National Trust of Aust. (Vic)
Classified/Recorded
File No.

Geelong Regional Commission
Register No. ...399.....

IDENTIFICATION DATA

PLACE NAME Bluestone Stables
ADDRESS 327 Shannon Avenue,
Newtown, 3220.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA City of Newtown.
TITLE INFORMATION

MAP REFERENCE

PRESENT USE
PRESENT OWNER/LESSEE I.R. and C.A. Redpath.

ADDRESS Ghazepoore Road,
Wairn Ponds.

TELEPHONE

PLACE NAME BLUESTONE STABLES, 327 SHANNON AVENUE.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF NEWTOWN.

DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES AND BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

The fabric of 327 Shannon Avenue, Newtown, is derived from the remains of Foster Fyans house Balyang near the Barwon River an historic early Geelong house.

See P.L. Brown Foster Fyans Memoirs Geelong 1986 for details.

CITATION

The Bluestone Stables at 327 Shannon Avenue, Newtown, now converted to commercial premises and the original character all but obliterated appear to have insufficient historical associations and lack sufficient architectural integrity to warrant listing on the Geelong Regional Commission Register of Historic Places.

Although the stone has its origins in the foundations and walls of Foster Fyans 'Balyang', on the Barwon River (See Documentation Sheet for Memorial Cairn) the existence of this once historic house is elsewhere recorded.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE

- Its creative and/or technical accomplishment.
- Its demonstration of a way of life, custom, process or function no longer practised, in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest.
- Its strong association with an important figure or figures, development, or cultural phase.
- Its townscape and/or landscape value.
- Its scarcity value.

SIGNIFICANCE

- LOCAL REGIONAL STATE NATIONAL WORLD

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED RUINS

INTEGRITY

- HIGH LOW ALTERED DAMAGED

RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Not recommended for listing on Geelong Regional Commission Register

Historic Buildings Commission Register No. File No. (Vic)

Geelong Regional Commission Register No.

AT. Stone Stables

DOCUMENTATION – Allan Willingham, Architect, 151 McKean St., North Fitzroy. 3068. Tel: 03 489 8492.

SIGNATURE.....**DATE**.....

PLACE NAME: BLUESTONE STABLES, 327 SHANNON AVE. DE.
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ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (References)

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ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE

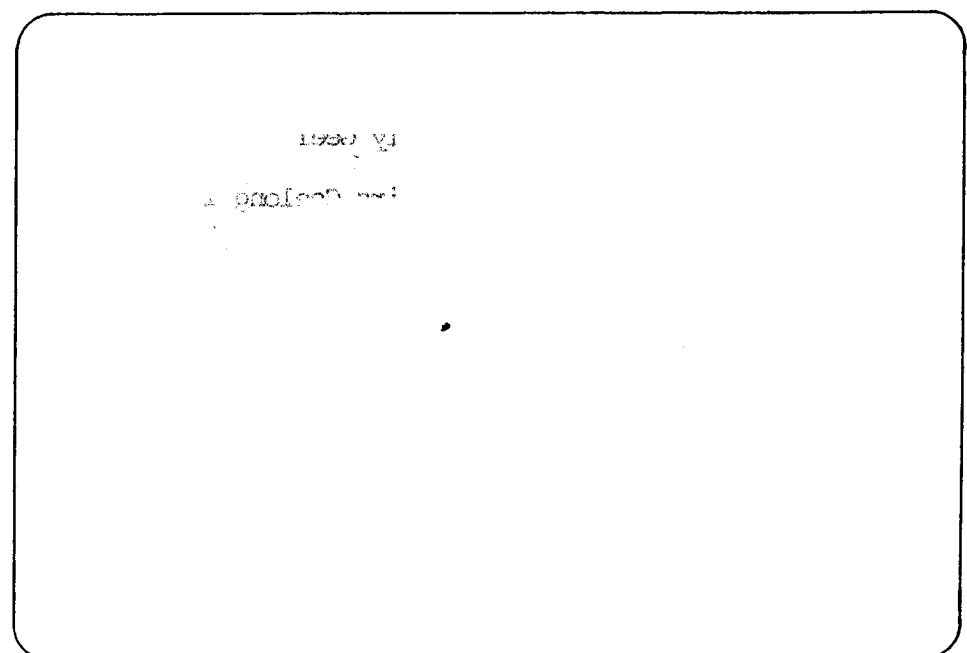
SUBSEQUENT WORKS/ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

The original bluestone stables have been extensively modified and the premises converted to commercial usage. No important associations are apparent.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S)/OCCUPANT(S) Not known.

SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/OCCUPANTS

OTHER NOTES



NEGATIVE FILE:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Heritage Commission
Register of National Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Buildings Preservation Council
Register No.
File No. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Trust of Aust. (Vic)
Classified/Recorded
File No. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geelong Regional Commission
Register No. 399 |

IDENTIFICATION DATA

PLACE NAME Bluestone Stables
 ADDRESS 327 Shannon Avenue,
 Newtown, 3220.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA City of Newtown.
 TITLE INFORMATION

MAP REFERENCE

PRESENT USE
 PRESENT OWNER/LESSEE I.R. and C.A. Redpath.
 ADDRESS Ghazepoore Road, TELEPHONE
 Waurnd Ponds.

PLACE NAME Redpath's Antiques LEVEL: B
 (former Walker's Omnibus stables)
 ADDRESS 327 Shannon Avenue (NW cnr Leslie Street)
 AREA - DATE/PERSON 14.4/RP NEG: 1.24, 1.25 & 1.26



DATES Construction: 1895
 USE Present Use: Commercial
 Original Use: Coaching stables
 Alterations?: Rear addition, front facade replaced

FORM Detached Single storey Double fronted
 STYLE Victorian

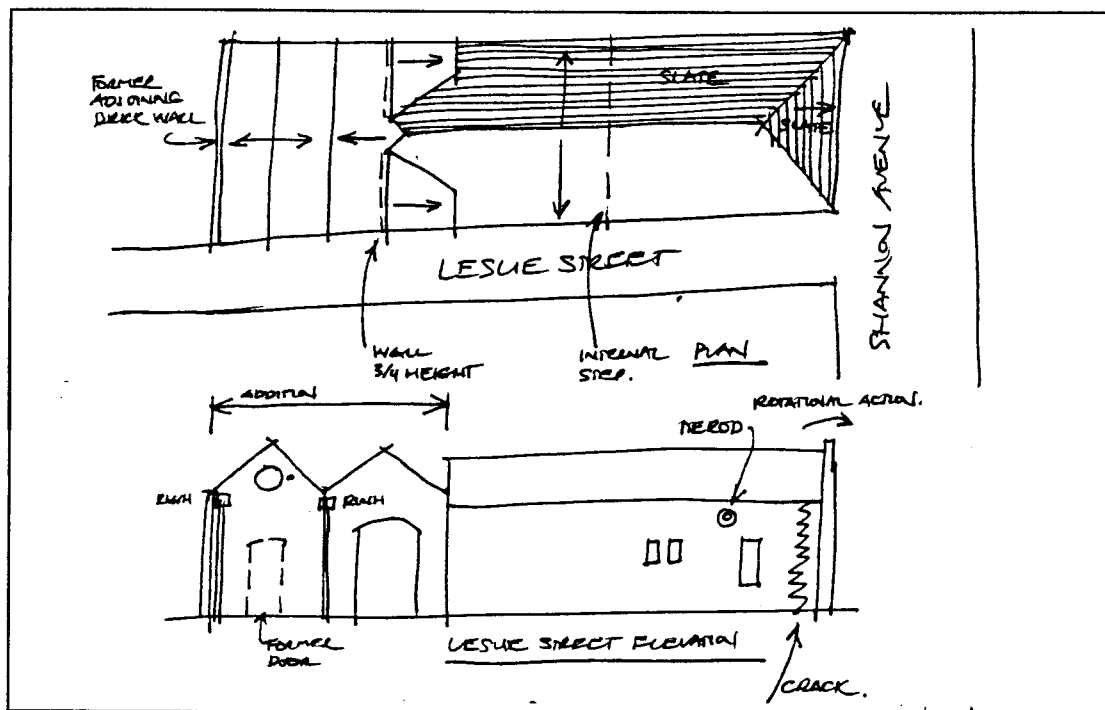
DESCRIPTION (I = Intact A = Altered * = significant)
 ROOF CORR. IRON SLATE
 WALLS STONE
 I ROOF FORM

VERANDAH FENESTRATION FINISHES
 I INTERIOR GARDEN & SETTING OTHER COMMENTS
 Fences & gates,
 Corr. iron palisade on
 house adjacent, no. 325.

CONDITION & INTEGRITY THREATS
 Condition: Fair Deterioration
 Integrity: Altered

DESCRIPTION

A coarsed ashlar hip-roofed former stables, with two gables across the site at rear. These gables have a coach entry and oculus over, and two good rainwater heads. Adjacent is a remaining wall from a former neighbouring building. Inside, the roof trusses are exposed. The rear section is separated by a three quarter height masonry wall, and there is a raised section at the rear. The roof is part slate, part iron. There is a brick facade applied in the 1950s with a raked shop front under a beam of a very large span. It has a crazy paving soffit. The adjoining house, no. 325 has an intact cast-iron palisade fence of unusual pattern.



HISTORY

The bluestone stables at 327 Shannon Avenue, Newtown, have great historical significance because of their associations with William Walker's famous omnibus service, which played such an important role in the early history of transport in the Geelong area. Walker was a legendary figure already with his earlier large 1880s stables between Corio Street and Corio Terrace⁴¹⁵ before he came to Newtown in 1895 and built his substantial bluestone stables in Shannon Avenue⁴¹⁶. He was reputed to have used stone from Foster Fyans old house "Balyang" near Prince's Bridge in the construction of the Shannon Avenue bus stables⁴¹⁷. At this time Walker acquired his splendid Sunbeam bus which, according to Brownhill, "helped to uphold Newtown hill's superiority in public transport"⁴¹⁸. After Walker sold his bus service at the turn of the century, Arthur Nicholls Vines, proprietor of the Cobb and Co. coaching service, briefly ran a bus service from the old Shannon Avenue stables⁴¹⁹. Then, from 1911 until the middle 1920s, Frank Lloyd Hooper, founder

415. Geelong Advertiser, 1 June, 1889.

416. Newtown rate book 1895-96, West Ward No 1873.

417. Gladys Seaton, Model Borough, City of Newtown, 1983, p.64; "Newtown Valley", unpublished Walker family history held by the Geelong Historical Records Centre.

418. W. R. Brownhill, The History of Geelong and Corio Bay, Wilke & Co. Ltd., Melbourne, 1947, p.458.

419. Newtown rate book 1909-10 No 1699-1700.

of the Hooper grocery stores,⁴²⁰ used the building as stabling and a shop. Henry Hooper, grocer, was the owner/occupier in the late 1920s and early 1930s, using the building at first for stabling and then as a store and shop⁴²¹.

The first Newtown rate book entry for Walker's stables in Shannon Avenue (then called West Melbourne Road) was in 1895 when Jane Walker (his wife) was listed as the owner and William Walker, bus proprietor, was listed as the occupier of a wooden cottage and bus stables, NAV thirty pounds⁴²². Jane Walker was owner in that year also of two unfinished brick cottages of eight rooms, also in Shannon Avenue⁴²³. By 1899 William Walker was recorded as the owner of bus stables in Lawrence Street (the earlier name for Leslie Street) and of a storehouse and two shops in West Melbourne Road (Shannon Street)⁴²⁴.

According to an unpublished Walker family history,⁴²⁵ Catherine and Thomas Walker and their family lived on a farm on the banks of the Barwon River at Newtown, opposite Queen's Park. Walker, who owned the "horse bus service in Geelong", did well financially "and also married a wealthy wife. He lived in Barwon House near where the boat race starts. It was called Sladen Hall before he bought it, as built by Sir Charles Sladen. Still standing as canteen for woollen mill".⁴²⁶

There is an account by "The Vagabond", that indefatigable journalist, in the Geelong Advertiser of 1 June, 1889, of Walker's early Corio Terrace stables, reputedly "the largest of any similar establishment in the colony, fitted up in complete style".⁴²⁷ The regular bus service provided linked Geelong with Newtown "the aristocratic suburb of Geelong, having a number of fine houses, the buildings and grounds of which would not disgrace Toorak"⁴²⁸. Walker was also responsible in the 1880s for the construction of the "Academy of Music" building in Corio Street and the adjacent Arcade, which "The Vagabond" claimed would be "the show place of 'new Geelong', which would do credit to the most go ahead of American cities"⁴²⁹.

When Walker commenced his new bus service in Newtown in 1895, he created another legend by importing to Melbourne from Cardiff a bus he called the Sunbeam in tribute to Lord Brassey, the Governor, on his way to Australia in his steam yacht of that name. According to Brownhill, "There was nothing as good in the other buses as the velvet pile seats provided in the Sunbeam for the comfort of the Newtown passengers"⁴³⁰. On the first day that the Sunbeam was in service it was drawn by four grey horses, and St. Augustine's

420. Seaton, p.103.

421. Newtown rate books 1925 no 2190; 1935 Nos 2400, 2401.

422. Ibid 1895-96 No 1573.

423. Ibid Nos 1574, 1575.

424. Ibid 1899-1900 Nos 1571, 1572.

425. Gladys Seaton, Model Borough, City of Newtown, 1983, p.64; "Newtown Valley", unpublished Walker family history held by the Geelong Historical Records Centre.

426. Allan Willingham Geelong Regional Commission Study, Sheet 336 tells of the building's purchase by the Returned Soldiers and Sailors Woollen Mill Pty Ltd, and its rebuilding as a staff amenities building.

427. Geelong Advertiser, 1 June, 1889.

428. Geelong Advertiser, 8 June, 1889.

429. Ibid.

430. Brownhill, p.458.

Orphanage Band was taken to town and back, playing music as it went⁴³¹.

Walker continued to run his Shannon Avenue bus service until November 1901⁴³². As we have seen, the bluestone bus stables were used by Arthur Nicholls Vines, coach proprietor, briefly, circa 1909⁴³³, and then Frank Lloyd Hooper, importing grocer, acquired the property, using it as stabling and a shop⁴³⁴. Henry Hooper, grocer, used the former stables as a store in 1935⁴³⁵. The building is used currently as an antique shop.

SIGNIFICANCE

These stables have great regional historical significance because of their associations with William Walker's omnibus service, which played such an important role in the early development of transport in the Geelong district. They were constructed in 1895 for Walker, who ran his bus service from there until November 1901. Arthur Nicholls Vines, proprietor of the Cobb and Co. coaching service, briefly ran a bus service from there and from 1911 until the middle 1920s, Frank Lloyd Hooper, founder of the Hooper grocery stores, used the building as stabling and a shop. Henry Hooper, grocer, was the owner in the late 1920s and early 1930s, using the building at first for stabling and then as a store and shop. The building has local architectural significance as a late nineteenth century commercial stone building relatively intact, except lacking the Shannon Avenue front.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Existing listings	NONE	
Recommend'ns	RNE	LPS Place

431. Seaton, p.64.

432. Ibid.

433. Newtown rate book 1909-10 No 1699-1700.

434. Newtown rate books 1925 no 2190; 1935 Nos 2400, 2401.

435. Ibid.