

**PLACE NAME**  
**ADDRESS**  
**AREA** 2

"Drummond" (Former "Bellaria Private Hospital")  
35 Virginia Street  
**DATE/PERSON** 23.4/RP

**LEVEL:** B  
**NEG:** 1.22



**DATES** Construction: 1891

**USE** Present Use: Residential  
Original Use: House  
Alterations?: Fence replaced or rebuilt

**FORM**

Detached  
Double storey  
Triple fronted

**STYLE**

Italianate

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

**ROOF**

I Slate

**WALLS**

I Brick

**ROOF FORM**

I Eaves decoration

**VERANDAH**

I Form  
\*\* Decoration

**FENESTRATION**

I Doors-including  
flywire doors (recent)  
I Windows

**FINISHES**

\* Unpainted:  
brickwork

**INTERIOR**

**GARDEN & SETTING**

I Fences & gates, (recent)  
\* Plants, hedge

**OTHER COMMENTS**

**CONDITION & INTEGRITY**

Condition: Excellent  
Integrity: Intact

**THREATS**

## DESCRIPTION

A double-storey, triple-fronted, bichromatic brick, slate hip-roofed, Italianate house. The left-hand bay projects with tripartite windows. The right-hand bay has double windows. There are Italianate eaves brackets. There is a double-storey verandah around the angle, with a very fine cast-iron lace frieze, brackets, posts and balustrade. The cast-iron palisade fence, on a bluestone plinth, is backed by a variegated privet hedge. The fence is largely recent, but sympathetic.

The design is believed to be the work of architect A. J. Derek<sup>474</sup>.

## HISTORY

Known during the 1920s and 1930s as the "Bellaria Private Hospital", this house was completed by late December 1891. Its first owner/occupier was Jessie McMillan and it was described in the Newtown rate books as a two storey brick house, NAV 120 pounds<sup>475</sup>. Jessie McMillan remained as owner/occupier until the turn of the century, when she let her Virginia Street house to John Bell, gentleman<sup>476</sup>. Between 1905 and 1906, Jessie McMillan's executors let the property to W. H. Reid, grazier<sup>477</sup>. Reid continued to occupy the house until 1911, but a new owner, Robert McKenzie, was listed in 1908<sup>478</sup>. In 1911 "Bellaria" was recorded for the first time in Newtown rate books as the name for McKenzie's brick house in Virginia Street<sup>479</sup>. In 1914, at the commencement of World War One, a new owner, Octavia Kate McKenzie, a nurse, was recorded as the owner of "Bellaria"<sup>480</sup>. Nurse McKenzie transformed the Italianate brick house into the "Bellaria Private Hospital"<sup>481</sup>. Nurses continued to own the property. In 1927 Maria Ruby McDonald, a nurse, was the owner and Emily R. Stone, nurse, was the occupier of 35 Virginia Street, a brick dwelling on land 70 x 220 feet, NAV 162 pounds. Nurse McDonald was owner/occupier in 1935<sup>482</sup>.

Seaton, discussing medical services which began in Newtown and Chilwell from the 1850s or earlier, says that private hospitals represented one facet of medical care available. They varied in popularity and acceptance, "under one roof accommodating perhaps young and old, maternity and general cases". In the 1920s they were the subject of some discussion. Newtown and Chilwell Council affirmed their place in residential areas, altering a by-law early in March 1928. Doctors at the time predicted that the days of private hospitals were numbered but this prediction has proved inaccurate<sup>483</sup>.

## SIGNIFICANCE

This Italianate brick house was completed in late December 1891 for Jessie McMillan. It has regional historical significance as an

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474. Lorraine Huddle, pers. comm.

475. Newtown rate book 1891-92, North Ward No 90.

476. Ibid 1901-2 No 95.

477. Ibid 1905-6 No 94; 1906-7 No 95.

478. Ibid 1908-9 No 94.

479. Ibid 1911-12 No 105.

480. Ibid 1914-15 No 105.

481. Ibid 1919-20 No 115.

482. Ibid 1927 No 121; 1935 No 124.

483. Gladys Seaton, Model Borough, City of Newtown, 1983, pp.65-67.

illustration of Newtown's provision of special community services for the Geelong district, particularly in the fields of health, education, religion and transport. Octavia Kate McKenzie, nurse, owned the building from 1914 and in 1919 converted it into a private hospital. Nurses continued to own the property over a long period. It has regional architectural significance as a substantial Italianate house. Of particular interest are the very fine cast-iron lace frieze, brackets, balustrade and posts. The sympathetic contextural elements such as the hedge and fence further contribute to the significance.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Existing Listings**      NONE

**Recommend'ns**      RNE              LPS  
   Area 2  
   Place

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