

RESIDENCE

504 Darling Street



RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that this residence be specified under the provisions of Clause 8 of the *Town and Country Planning Act* (Third Schedule).

BUILDING ANALYSIS

With its decorative plaster mouldings, 504 Darling Street is one of the more ornate examples of bluestone domestic buildings in Ballarat. There are only a limited number of domestic buildings constructed in bluestone in Ballarat, with a group clustered around the Skipton/Lyons Street intersection. This example in the southern end of Darling Street, is one of the few early buildings in this area with newer residences predominating.

The date of construction of this residence is unknown but it appears to be a relatively late use of bluestone in a domestic example. Certain transitional elements, such as the decorative timber work and paired windows indicate that this is a late Victorian house, erected possibly in the 1890's.

The projecting decorative gable section distinguishes this building from other bluestone residences in Ballarat. The gable end barge board is highly ornate with a narrow cast iron frieze following the line of the decorative gable. The double paired windows to the front facade have refined pilasters with square doric capitals. The unusual trefoil shaped pediment above the front window contains an elaborate design and is a distinctive feature of the house.

The skilfully worked bluestone is of coarsed ashlar with rough faced blocks on the facade with the corner and door way emphasised by vermiculated quoin blocks (with blocks corresponding to two courses of stonework.) The roof is highlighted by prominent chimneys and decorative metal acroteria at the roof gutter corners.

The verandah roof is supported on cast iron pillars with corinthian capitals. Cast iron brackets of a circular motif support the frieze. The frieze is a composite type seen in other parts of Ballarat, mainly on timber houses; it consists of panels of cast iron and a flowing circle and star pattern interspersed with turned timber miniature "balusters". This type of frieze appears to be peculiar to Ballarat.