

BUILDING NO. 8.  
'CLIFTON VILLA'  
502 EYRE STREET



#### Current Assessments

'Clifton Villa' is recorded by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

#### Recommendations

It is recommended that 'Clifton Villa' be added to the Historic Buildings Register and protected under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act. (Third Schedule).

#### Statement of Significance

"Clifton Villa" is an unusual and highly intact residence in Buninyong and a fine example of pattern book Gothic architecture. The buildings' picturesque form, detailing and setting are of great significance and of particular note are the paired, cylindrical chimneys with spiral pattern and decorative timber barge boards.

"Clifton Villa's" local significance derives from its adoption of the Gothic style and use of carved timberwork, both of which are characteristics of a number of Buninyong residences, and its national significance from the fine and intact example it provides.

#### Building History and Description

The Gothic residence, 'Clifton Villa' was erected c. 1859 for Edward C. Newman who later, it appears, commenced a chemist practice from this house. A well known Buninyong resident, the grocer George Whykes, was a subsequent occupant of 'Clifton Villa'.

The picturesque Gothic style was adopted in the design of this red brick house, and the composition and character are indicative of pattern book design. Steep slate roofs end in gables which feature decorative barges and finials, and distinctive paired chimneys are cylindrical with spiral patterns. A typical verandah encompasses two sides of the building, decorated with cast iron valence, brackets, columns and balustrading, and containing a decorated gable over the entrance. Polygonal bay windows of the front facade add to the Gothic character of the house, and the asymmetrical form, together with the spacious corner setting, impart a picturesque quality.

#### Building Integrity and Future Enhancement

'Clifton Villa' is largely intact but is in a generally poor condition. Both the building and the surrounding grounds require urgent maintenance and repair work and it is recommended that a conservation analysis is undertaken before future work is carried out.

#### References

M W Thorpe and M Akers. An Illustrated History of Buninyong.  
Buninyong Historical Society, Buninyong, 1982, p.20.