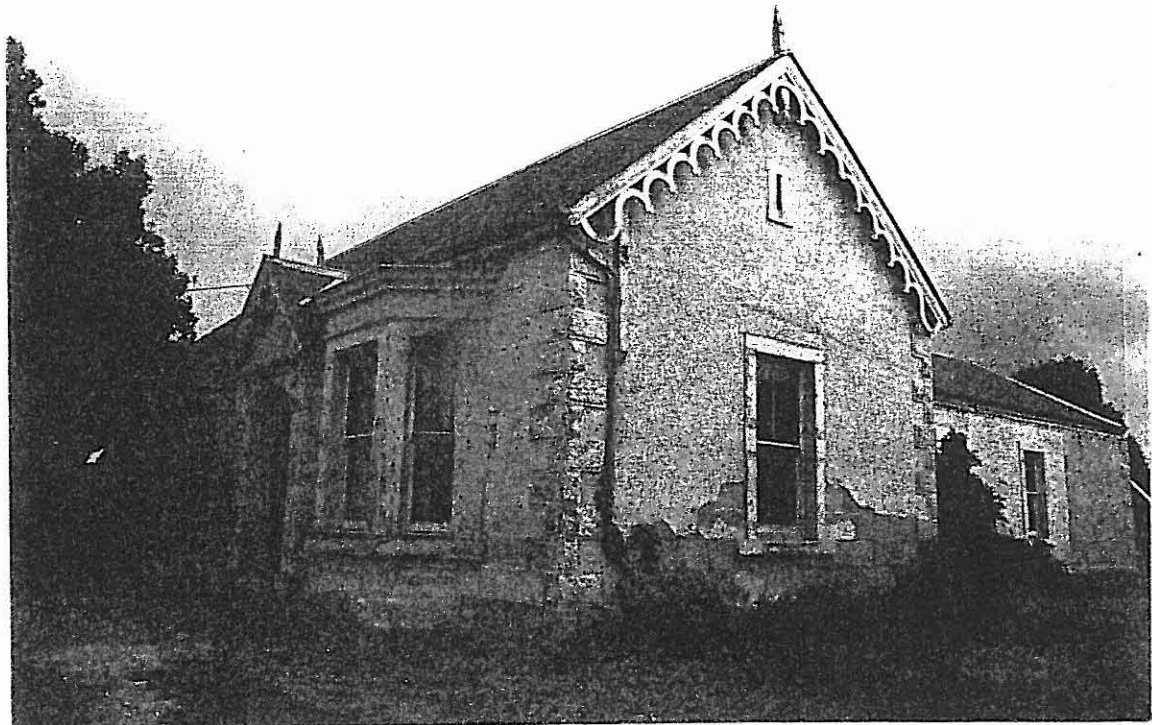


BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.

Ref: 212

Richard Peterson Architect & Conservation Consultant. Daniel Catrice Historian 1994.

<p>NAME: Stone Villa. ADDRESS: 4 Bennett Street. TITLE DETAILS:</p>
<p>USE: House PREVIOUS USE: Parsonage. SIGNIFICANT DATE: CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1865 SOURCE: 1 CRITERIA: H1,3,6; Ar3. HISTORIC THEME: Townships</p>
<p>DESCRIPTION: STYLE: Pic. Gothic STORIES: 1 DETACHED. MATERIALS: WALLS Stone ROOF Slate STRUCTURE Lb CONDITION: Fair INTACTNESS: Very good THREATS: Structural cracks.</p>
<p>SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS: MATERIALS. FORM. FACADE. VERANDAH. porch ROOF FORM. EAVES DECORATION. ROOF DECORATION. VERANDAH DECORATION. porch CHIMNEYS. ? WALL DECORATION. DOORS. WINDOWS. STREET FURNITURE.</p>
<p>SIGNIFICANCE: TYPE: HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL. LEVEL: REGIONAL.</p>
<p>DESIGNATION EXISTING: RNE. NTC. RECOMMENDED CONTROL/NOMINATION: RNE. PLANNING SCHEME.</p>
<p>MAP NO: U4.07 SURVEY: RP DATE: 31.1.94 NEGS: 17.27A</p>



HISTORY: Stone Villa was built in 1865 for James Young, storekeeper and solid citizen. A native of Northumberland, England, Young emigrated to Australia in 1841, working for a period as carpenter, then coming to Bacchus Marsh, where he established the Border Flour Mill. By 1852, he was a member of the National School Board, and an elder and trustee of the Presbyterian Church. He was the first Chairman of the Bacchus Marsh and District Road Board, and an original trustee of the Mechanics' Institute. Later, he opened a general store, the Border Store, opposite the post office. In 1869, he left Bacchus Marsh for Nagambie where he died two years later, aged fifty-three.¹

In 1870, Stone Villa was purchased by a solicitor, Francis Thomas Gell. Two years later, the house was sold to William Collyer. From 1883, it was used as a parsonage, and from 1922 when the Church of England built a new vicarage, as a private house owned by Frederick Slack.²

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: A Picturesque Gothic limestone ashlar house, its design possibly derived from pattern books. It has a gable roof across, is double fronted and symmetrical, with two canted bay windows and parapets flanking a gable-roofed entrance-porch. These bays are hard on the front boundary line. They have deep ovolu moulds, a frieze-mould and in the window soffits, prismatic panels.

The gables and the porch have fine, loopy decorative barges, slot vent and finial. There is a Jacobean label-mould over the four-centred arched entrance and a carved motif: two wreaths inscribing a four-petal flower over a ribbon. The recessed four-panel door has fanlight and sidelights. Other windows have flat architraves and cills. There are rock-face quoins. Dual parallel gables and a verandah project at rear. There is a diamond pattern pre-cast concrete footpath.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: There are sixteen early houses in Bacchus Marsh and seven houses built of stone. Of these, only three early houses are stone.

SIGNIFICANCE: An early Picturesque Gothic ashlar stone house, possibly derived from a pattern-book design, built in 1865 by James Young. Young established the Border Flour Mill, the Border Store and served in various public positions.

The house is locally significant historically as a representative embodiment of a way of life in the mid-1860s and demonstrates its association with important and influential local figure James Young. It is also significant as an early local substantial house.

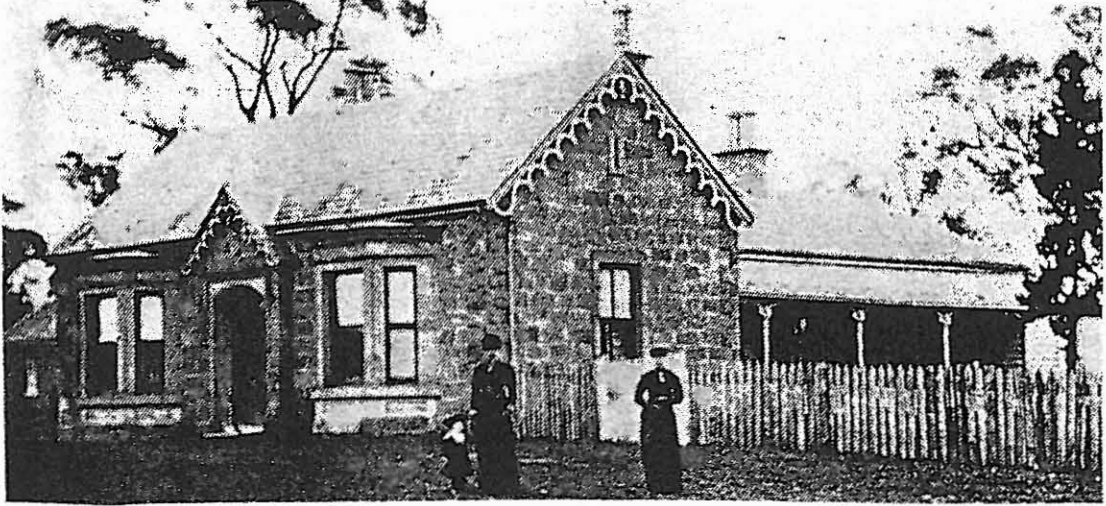
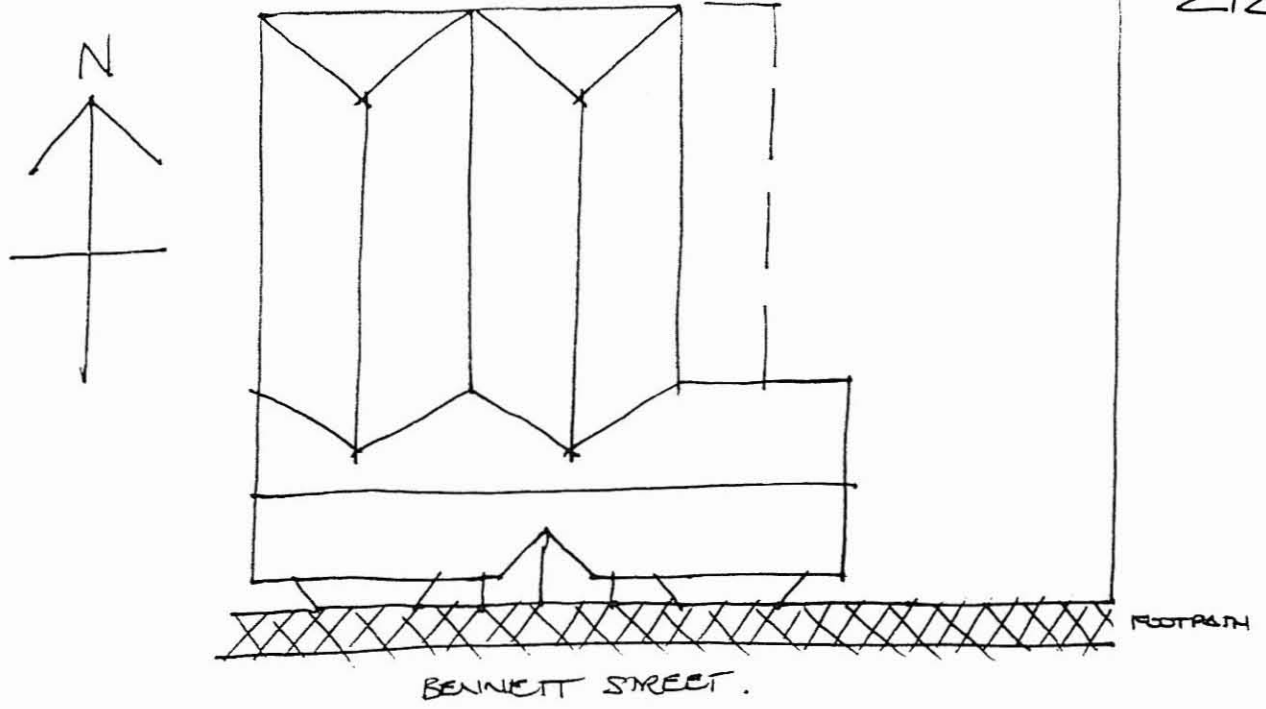
It is of local architectural significance as a rare (purported) example of the influence of pattern-book designs, and as an intact representative example of the Picturesque Gothic style.

¹ Osborn, *The Bacchus Story*, p.70.

² Moore, "History of Stone Villa", typescript, BMDHS.

INTACTNESS: Very good. The stonework has been painted: Three coats are visible. The rear verandah has been removed.

CONDITIONS & THREATS: Fair only. There is very serious vertical structural cracking. The side walls appear to be rotating.



MOLL & CONES, 1843.