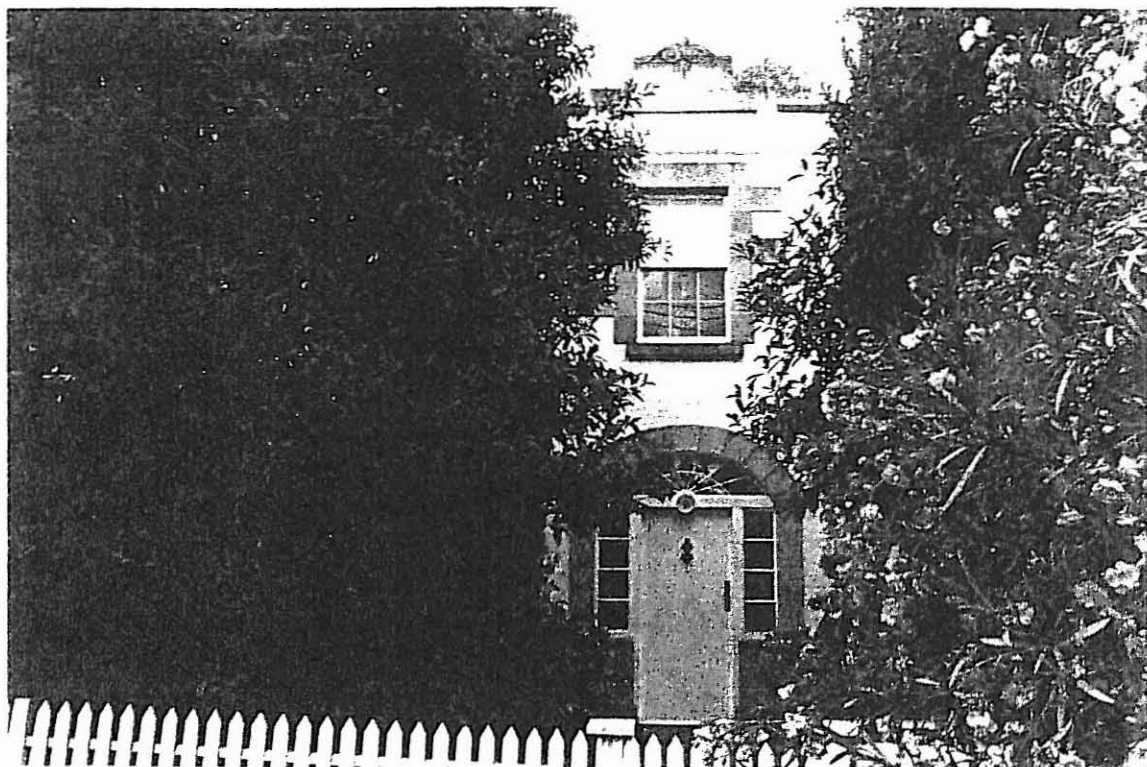


BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.

Ref: 218

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

<u>NAME:</u> (Manor House).		
<u>ADDRESS:</u> 28 Manor Street.		
<u>TITLE DETAILS:</u>		
<u>USE:</u> House		
<u>PREVIOUS USE:</u> Court of Petty Session, Ys Men's Club.		
<u>SIGNIFICANT DATE:</u> 1847-51 <u>CONSTRUCTION DATE:</u> 1846-7		
<u>SOURCE:</u> 1,4.		
<u>ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS:</u>	<u>DATE:</u>	<u>SOURCE:</u>
<u>DESIGNER:</u>	<u>BUILDER:</u>	<u>SOURCE:</u>
<u>CRITERIA:</u> H1,3,6; Ar1,2; Sc2/ H4; So1/H4.		
<u>HISTORIC THEME:</u> Pastoralism/ Conserving/ Governing.		
<u>DESCRIPTION:</u>	<u>STYLE:</u> Colonial Regency	<u>STORIES:</u> 2 <u>DETACHED.</u>
<u>MATERIALS:</u>	<u>WALLS</u> Brick and stone	<u>ROOF</u> Iron <u>STRUCTURE</u> Lb
<u>CONDITION:</u> Excellent	<u>INTACTNESS:</u> Good	<u>THREATS:</u> -
<u>SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:</u>		
MATERIALS. FORM. FACADE.		
PARAPET DECORATION.		
CHIMNEYS. WINDOWS.		
UNPAINTED FINISH.		
STREET FURNITURE.		
<u>SIGNIFICANCE:</u>		
<u>TYPE:</u> HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL. SCIENTIFIC. SOCIAL.		
<u>LEVEL:</u> STATE.		
<u>DESIGNATION EXISTING:</u> HBCR. RNE. PLANNING SCHEME. NTC.		
<u>RECOMMENDED CONTROL/NOMINATION:</u> HBCR. RNE. PLANNING SCHEME.		
<u>MAP NO:</u> U5.07	<u>SURVEY:</u> RP	<u>DATE:</u> 31.1.94 <u>NEGS:</u> 18.11-13



HISTORY: The Manor House was erected in 1846-47 for Captain W.H. Bacchus, the gentleman squatter who gave his name to the township and Shire. William Henry Bacchus was born in 1782, the second son of William Bacchus, potter, and his wife, Maria Elliot (née Bagnall).

After service in the army, first as cornet, then as Captain in the 2nd Royal Surrey Militia, Bacchus took up sheep farming in Sussex. In 1837, he sailed from London with his son and daughter, arriving in Sydney on 31 October. From Sydney, the family travelled to Launceston, in order to buy sheep, which Bacchus transported to Melbourne and thence, Bacchus Marsh. He established his head station on the site of the present Manor House, and to secure his 14,080 acre (5,698 ha) run, built four outstations. These were necessary, because a radius of three miles (4.8 km) around a hut was accepted as the area for which a squatter could claim grazing rights.¹

Captain Bacchus cut a prominent figure in Melbourne society. He was a foundation member of the Melbourne Club, the Melbourne Cricket Club and the Agricultural and Pastoral Society of Australia.² At Bacchus Marsh, in 1846-47, he built a manor house of hand-made brick and freestone to symbolise his status in the infant colony. The freestone was obtained from Matson's Quarry at Bald Hill (ref: 368). The mason was Robert Rhodes, and the carpenter John Dorricut.³

Captain Bacchus died at the Manor House aged 67, on February 26, 1849. His son, William Henry, sold the property in March 1851 to John Atkins and Robert Nalder Clarke. Clarke occupied the Manor until 1853, when the residence and an adjoining paddock of 240 acres (97 ha), were leased to the Victorian government for use as a Court of Petty Sessions (ref: 151 & 355).⁴ At the end of the lease, the property was sold to James Elijah Crook, the congenial host of the Woolpack Inn (ref: 174). The sale notice, published in the *Argus* on November 5 1857, observed that the subdivision, comprising 503 acres (204 ha), embraced:

The noble mansion on the property, containing large and well proportioned rooms, and provided with most convenient outbuildings and extensive stabling, and very suitable for an hotel of the first class, and which the great traffic on this road, the main line to the important gold-fields at Ballarat, urgently demands. With the house will be sold about 12 acres (5 ha) of the finest of the land, which again includes the large productive garden and orchard, well stacked with fruit trees, the whole forming a most complete and desirable homestead.⁵

¹ Osborn, *The Bacchus Story*, pp. 6-20.

² Felix, *ibid.* ??? (from where?)

³ *Bacchus Marsh Express*, 23 February 1907.

⁴ Osborn, *op.cit.*, p.58.

⁵ *Argus*, 5 November 1857.

The Manor House was occupied by the Crook family for ninety years. In 1947, the property, now six acres (2.4 ha), was purchased by Lifeguard Milk Products Pty. Ltd. For several years, the Manor House was used by the Ys Men's Club (ref: 138). In 1961, the property was sold to Mrs Dickie, wife of the Hon. V.O. Dickie MLC, who subdivided the six acres (2.4 ha) for sale as housing allotments. The Manor House, now in a poor state of repair, was sold in 1962 to Dr Pulteney Malcolm and his wife Audrey (née Dickie). The Malcolms restored the house with the assistance of John and Phyllis Murphy, honorary architects for the National Trust, which had classified the property in 1959, one of its earliest classifications. The garden was also landscaped: "starting with only a few old gum trees and firs, the Malcolms have spent hundreds of pounds making a garden of widespread lawns and picturesque borders. In 1981, the Manor House "a Bacchus Marsh landmark," by then registered by the Australian Heritage Commission and the Historic Buildings Council, was sold to M.J. and P. Redden.⁷

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: A Colonial Regency two-storey brick and ashlar sandstone house of five bays. There is a hip roof concealed by a parapet, only on the front and right hand sides. There are limestone quoins except at the entrance, and twelve pane double hung sashes. The stone parapet capping is over a plain frieze and plain brick mould. In the centre bay, the parapet steps up two courses to an acroterion with volutes. The entrance has a broad segmental head of chamfered stone blocks, on stone Doric pilasters to cill level, with grooved plinths next to stone panels below with a skirting mould. There is a fine fanlight with radiating glazing bars and sidelights. Generally, there is a dressed stone base. At rear, is a hip-roofed side verandah at right and two-storey skillion, and a right an oblong chimney. There is an old brick outbuilding and a log hut (not inspected). The front is obscured by recent vegetation.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: There are seven surviving pre-Gold Rush buildings in Bacchus Marsh (also refs: 153, 172, 174, 191, 249 and 354). This is the only one not on the Ballarat Road. It is contemporary only with Leahy's Inn Hotel (1847?) and Hobler's Cottage (1846-48), and probably a year or so earlier. Therefore it is the oldest surviving building in Bacchus Marsh, and one of the earliest in Victoria. The log outbuilding is one of only five buildings surviving built of primitive materials in the Shire and probably the earliest of those. Apart from his grave (ref: 196) it is the only surviving fabric associated with Captain Bacchus.

SIGNIFICANCE: An early (pre-Gold Rush) Colonial Regency two-storey brick and ashlar sandstone house built by Captain W.H. Bacchus, the prominent founder of Bacchus Marsh in 1846-7. It was lived in by him for only two years and subsequently his son William for a further two years. It was subsequently owned by James Crook of the Woolpack Inn and in this century by the important Dickie family. It was also used as a Court and social club. It

⁷ Osborn, op.cit., pp. 92-93; Building File No.218, National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

has been associated with various forms of building conservation action since 1959. A primitive log hut survives on the site, also.

The Manor House is of state historical significance as a representative embodiment of the way of life of pastoral squatters and their social values in rural Victoria, before the discovery of gold and for its association with the important and influential figure of Captain Bacchus. It with its log construction outbuilding, have further historical significance as a pioneering building in the State.

It is architecturally significant to the state as a rare representative example of the Regency Colonial style and in demonstrating fine craftsmanship in joinery and stonemasonry of this period.

It also has state historical significance in demonstrating the effect of the building conservation (or heritage) movement from its origins in the 1950s. It has social significance as being known and valued by the Bacchus Marsh community as part of its heritage and consequently of its sense of identity as a place.

Finally it has scientific significance as a potential place for archaeological and materials sampling research.

INTACTNESS: Good. The brickwork is painted gloss white. The entry door appears to have been replaced. The left-hand chimney has been removed and the parapet, particularly the centrepiece has been rebuilt, in a different form, deleting the recessed name plate. The side verandah has also been altered. The front picket fence is a recent innovation. The planting obscuring the front of the house is not appropriate.

CONDITIONS & THREATS: Excellent. The stone parapet is stained.