

LALOR HOUSE
293 Church Street

History and Description

Constructed in 1888 for Dr. Joseph Lalor, son of the celebrated Eureka Stockade leader and politician Peter Lalor. The arcaded, two storey brick and stucco residence and surgery was designed by the important American born, classically trained architect William George Wolf (1855-1898). Wolf arrived in Australia in 1878 and lived and practised in Richmond until 1886. He designed many hotels, four of which were in Richmond, the most notable being the Council Club Hotel, Swan Street. He shot himself in 1898.

The boom style design of the Lalor house is characterised by an innovative exaggerated use of massive classical motifs, harsh tonality and exuberant ornament. It is rivalled only by 'Benvenuta', Carlton and 'Labassa', Caulfield, for period architectural importance in Victoria. Peter Lalor died at the house in 1889. The building remains intact and of high integrity externally.

Statement of Significance

293 Church Street is of exemplary period architectural importance because of its innovative exaggerated use of massive classical motifs and ornament.

References

Historic Buildings Council file.
Trethowan, Bruce, 'William Wolf' investigation project, Faculty of Architecture, University of Melbourne, 1974.