

HELENVILLE
377 Church Street

History and Description

'Helenville' was built in 1885 for the distinguished architect John A.B. Koch. Koch lived here until 1896 when the house was purchased by the Church of England Orphans' Fund.

Koch was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1845 and died in Hawthorn in 1928. He arrived in Victoria when only eight years old. His first known building was the Castlemaine Hospital and Nurses' Home which was built in 1869 when he was articled to F.M. White. Koch went into private practice in 1873. He designed many fine buildings in Richmond and was mayor in 1882-3. He is probably best remembered as the architect for 'Labassa' in Caulfield.

'Helenville' is a stuccoed brick terrace house of nine rooms. Like many examples of Koch's work, it has an Italian Renaissance derived arcaded facade with a balustered parapet and balcony, and the arches are supported on squat cast iron columns.

Statement of Significance

'Helenville' is significant as the Richmond residence of the gifted architect John A.B. Koch between 1885 and 1896.

References

National Trust of Australia (Vic.) F.N. 4318.
Trust News, Feb. 1982, p.8.