

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA)

RESEARCH INTO 21 ELM GROVE, RICHMOND

F.N. 5105

An 1858 or earlier wooden cottage owned at first by William Green and then, during the 1860s, owned and occupied by Auguste Freitag, ⁽¹⁾ contractor, still stands at 21 Elm Grove.

The first Richmond rate book entry in 1858 for this building shows William Green as the owner and Mrs. Fitzgerald as the occupier of a wooden house of three rooms N.A.V. £16 in Catherine Street north side, the earlier name for Elm Grove. ⁽²⁾

By the middle 1860s Auguste Freitag, contractor, was recorded as the owner/occupier of a wood dwelling of six rooms N.A.V. £30. ⁽³⁾ The occupiers of the section of Elm Grove where this building stood (known earlier as Catherine Street) had strong associations with the building trade during the 1870s. Freitag also owned a wood shop of one room with a wood dwelling of three rooms at the rear on one side of No. 21. ⁽⁴⁾ On the other side there was a brick and iron dwelling of five rooms N.A.V. £25 owned and occupied by J.M. Robertson, architect. ⁽⁵⁾

A new owner of Freitag's houses was listed in the 1872 Richmond rate book. William Bloxom, gentleman, became the owner/occupier of the building now known as 21 Elm Grove. ⁽⁶⁾ William Nicolay, cabinet maker, took over the adjacent shop and dwelling. Robertson, the architect, continued to own and occupy the brick and iron dwelling. ⁽⁷⁾

Mrs. Margaret Bloxom, widow, was the owner of No. 21 by 1873. ⁽⁸⁾ About 1877 she built a new wooden house (known later as No. 23). She lived there and let No. 21. ⁽⁹⁾

(1) Also spelled Freytag)
(3) Ibid. 1866 No.1003
(5) Ibid. No.2614
(7) Ibid. Nos. 2776, 2775
(9) Ibid. 1878 Nos.3528, 3529.

(2) Richmond RB 1858 No.264
(4) Ibid. 1871, Nos.2615, 2616
(6) Ibid. 1872 No.2777
(8) Ibid. 1873 No.3173