

The builder, James Bonham's residence at 17 Elm Grove (earlier known as Catherine Street) probably dates from 1872, when Bonham was listed in the Richmond Rate Books as the owner/occupier of an unfinished brick dwelling of six rooms, N.A.V. £30.⁽¹⁾

This building with its unusual curved entrance forms an interesting group with those at 19 and 21 Elm Grove. No. 21 was rated first in 1863 with Richmond architect, James Robertson, as its owner/occupier⁽²⁾ No. 21, which was probably constructed during the 1850's for William Green was owned and occupied during the 1860's by a contractor, Auguste Freitag.⁽³⁾

No. 19 stands on the site of an earlier building, which was described in 1870 as a wood dwelling of four rooms, N.A.V. £26.⁽⁴⁾ From 1872, as we have seen, Bonham's house was described as a brick building of six rooms, N.A.V. £40.⁽⁵⁾

An 1896 M.M.B.W. detail plan shows 17 Catherine Street fronting onto the street with a small rear verandah looking out on to an extensive garden area with a trellis and a large brick paved and asphalted yard. There is a building near the back right-of-way which may have been stables.⁽⁶⁾

(1) Richmond R.B. 1872 No. 3003

(2) Ibid 1863 No. 272

(3) See F.N. 5105

(4) Richmond R.B. 1870 No. 2613

(5) See above

(6) Copy held
