

RESIDENCE
207 Lennox Street

History and Description

The first documentary evidence of this residential building was in 1855, when the building was recorded on the Magee Municipal Map of Richmond. However, early ownership of the building was traced to 1861, when the building was occupied by Frederick William Heinecke, a wholesale and retail tobacconist. Prior to this time, the only recorded locations for Heinecke were business addresses within the Melbourne commercial district. Early ownership of the building was varied, as the property changed hands several times. Cornelius Ham occupied the building between c. 1870-76, followed by William A. Douglas, Harrington E. Wade, and then Robert Robinson in the mid 1880's.

Architect William Salway was a notable occupant of the building, commencing his association in 1887. In 1896, the building is shown on the Richmond Board of Works plan. The property at this time had comprised the main brick dwelling, and four outbuildings. A pathway led from the corner of the property, around the perimeter of the residence.

The building is symmetrically composed with a central gable roof bisected by two identical bay projections, in turn bisected by first floor gablets. The main entrance is formed between the gable ends and is recessed beneath a porch form. A shaped gable with finial defines the building entrance.

The unusual massing of gable roofs on the rectangular plan is attractively conceived. Of particular significance is the early use of projecting gable forms.

The building maintains its original approach through an elaborate timber gateway, and several garden elements remain, including a fountain.

Statement of Significance

This brick building is the only surviving villa residence in Richmond of the 1850 period, representing the early settlement of the suburb as a gentleman's retreat from the business district of Melbourne. The massing and arrangement of architectural elements is most unusual on such an early building. Also of significance is the corner gateway, evidence of early garden layout, and surviving elements.

References

- Magee, John Steel. Municipal Map of Richmond, 1855.
 Sands & McDougall. Melbourne Directory. 1861-87.
 M.M.B.W. Plan of Richmond, 1896.