

RESIDENCE
36 Lesney Street

History and Description

The Crown Grantee was John Robert Murphy in 1849, who after a subdivision sold no. 36 Lesney Street to Frederick Grunberg, cabinetmaker, in 1852. The house and stable are shown on the 1855 Magee survey map of Richmond. In 1883 Henry Vanheems, photographer, purchased the property. An 1895 M.M.B.W. plan shows the house with a projecting room added to the front, a bay window added to the side and the rear extended to the stables. A geometric garden and conservatory are also evident. The Vanheems occupied the house until the 1960's. G.W. Vanheems, who was listed as living in the house in 1913, was the architect for the central tower and spires for St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, and St. Ignatius' Church, Richmond. The shiplap or chamfered weatherboards suggest that the building was an imported one. The flat iron verandah roofing, if original, is a rare survivor. As the building has been recently renovated it is difficult to assess its integrity.

Statement of Significance

A relatively intact early 1850's timber house, possibly prefabricated.

References

Parish Map.
 Lands Department 1855 map of Richmond by John Steel Magee.
 M.M.B.W. Map of Richmond, 1896.
 National Trust of Australia (Vic.) F.N. 4966.