

## RESIDENCE

Rear 42 Waltham Street

### History and Description

Built prior to 1855, this brick house was owned and occupied by the distinguished architect James Blackburn Jnr. until 1859. He sold it in 1863. It comprised five rooms, kitchen, stables and garden. Blackburn came to Victoria from Tasmania with his parents in 1849 aged 20 years, at which time he took over his father's architectural practice. He died in 1888. It is a very early Italianate design with bold timber eaves brackets, ruled stucco walls, tripartite windows and glazing bars to all sashes. The sashes with arched margin bars and the bay window are particularly interesting. The design has many similarities with Bishops court, East Melbourne, designed by Blackburn and Newson in 1853.

The portico parapet has been altered and its columns appear to be concrete sewerage pipes. A lean-to has been added to the south side of the house and a block of flats built in the front garden. The interior has been altered to accommodate three flats.

Blackburn's mother lived next door at 44 Waltham Street, now demolished. His father James Blackburn Snr. was also an important architect who as City Surveyor was instrumental in the establishment of the Yan Yean reservoir, and who died of typhoid in 1853.

Blackburn and Newson also designed St. Stephen's Church, Richmond in 1850.

### Statement of Significance

One of the earliest Italianate buildings in Victoria and most probably designed by James Blackburn Jnr.

### References

Historic Environment Vol. 2, No. 1, 1982 pp. 17-28.  
National Trust of Australia (Vic.) F.N. 5365.  
 Magee map, 1855.

