

<b>Building:</b>	Houses	<b>Significance:</b>	B
<b>Address:</b>	397 Johnston Street, Abbotsford	<b>Melway Map Ref:</b>	2D A8
<b>Building Type:</b>	Residence	<b>Construction Date:</b>	1900
<b>Architect:</b>	Unknown	<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown



<b>Intactness:</b>		<b>Condition:</b>	
G[x] F[ ] P[ ]		G[ ] F[x] P[ ]	
<b>Existing Heritage Listings:</b>		<b>Recommended Heritage Listings:</b>	
Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]	Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]
Register of the National Estate	[ ]	Register of the National Estate	[x]
National Trust	[ ]	Heritage Overlay Controls	[x]

## History

The house at 397 Johnston Street, Abbotsford, was built for John E Woolcock in 1900. Since at least 1898, Woolcock had been the owner of a wooden shop and house, valued at £20 in 1900, near the corner of Johnston and Paterson Streets.

The rate Books for 1901 list Woolcock as the owner of two brick houses, later Nos. 395 and 397, each valued at £30. The first occupier of No. 397 was William R Butcher, a clerk. In 1910, John Woolcock himself occupied the house, whilst James Woolcock lived at No. 395.<sup>1</sup>

## Description

The house at 397 Johnston Street, Abbotsford is a detached single-storey, double-fronted villa with, bichromatic brickwork and tripartite double-hung sash windows with flat arches above. Walls are of tuckpointed red brick, with brown brick string courses and window dressings. Unlike No. 395, however, it has a hipped roof, clad with slate, with projecting eaves supported on pairs of carved timber brackets. The lacework on the verandah is also more ornate than on the neighbouring villa, and it curves from the springing point in a convex, rather than a concave, fashion. The Italianate influence is less apparent than at No. 395, being restricted to the mouldings on the chimney, and a simple scroll and vermiculated panel at the top of the east wall.

The house retains its original front fence of iron pickets set into a bluestone plinth.

## Comparative Examples

395 Johnston Street, Abbotsford

## Significance

The house at 397 Johnston Street, Abbotsford is of local architectural significance. It is a good, if extremely late, example of the exuberant 19th century Italianate boom style, notable for its bichromatic brickwork and cast iron decoration. The house forms a pair with the adjacent No. 395, and together they comprise an important heritage element on a main thoroughfare in Abbotsford which has been significantly eroded by post-War industrial and commercial development.

## Original Source

Andrew Ward. *Collingwood Conservation Study*. 1995.

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1 Collingwood Rate Books, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901. *Sands & McDougall Directory*, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1910, 1915, 1921, 1930.