

TRAQUAIR, 20 COMO STREET

On A.D. Hodgson's 1885 subdivision of Thomas Willis' Lucerne Farm (Crown Portion 121), the civil engineer, Joseph Gibbs, built Traquair in 1890.² It is possible that Gibbs designed the building.³

Mary Crawford, acquired Traquair soon after 1900; her own property was adjoining.⁴ She leased it to George Emerson who was a paper ruler and, in those years the house was listed with the name Traquair.⁵ Other occupants, including Adam Burrows, John Hatcheson and Frederick S. Webb, lived there from the 1920's to the 1940's.⁶

Traquair is an unusual house. It exhibits stylistic

characteristics from both the 1890's and the first decade of this century. Two projecting gabled bays, with crussed apices, and matching semi-octagonal window bays illustrate the later characteristics whilst the stuccoed and corniced chimney shafts exhibit the former. Extensive additions may have been carried out after 1900. Fish-scale slating and the 'ashlar' timber boarding enrich the facade whilst an unusual concave roof verandah, apparently incomplete, stands on the south side of the house. What was probably a timber picket fence has been replaced and other minor alterations have been carried out such as loss of the gable finials.

