



HOUSE,
53 LUCERNE CRESCENT

The Lucerne Estate was commenced in 1885 by A.D. Hodgson as a subdivision of Thomas Mills' Crown Portion 121, of 1840. The estate was sold in two parts, north and south and it was the latter and the later which included Lucerne Crescent.¹

George W. Whitcher who was a law clerk living at 30 Greaves Street Fitzroy, purchased lots 61-3 of the Lucerne South No. 2 Estate and, in 1899, constructed 53 Lucerne Crescent.²

Unlike many of the later houses in the area, it was of polychrome brickwork and designed in the late Victorian Classical manner, with a cast-iron verandah on three sides. The house is double-fronted and symmetrically planned with a slated, M-hip roof profile, face-brick stucco corniced chimneys and a convex roof verandah which is supported on cast-

iron dogtoothed posts and decorated with brackets and friezework. Quoining is expressed with cream and brown bricks against a red body brick. Colonettes and side lights are used on the main openings. At the rear is the stable and some original outbuildings as well as an impressive *Eucalyptus victricolor* which dominates the corner site. Other mature exotic species grow in the garden.

Alterations include the replacement of the perimeter fence which would possibly have been iron or timber pickets, the division of the verandah, and the addition of a skillion to the east side. Otherwise, the house is original externally (spouting and some post details excepted), has retained its outbuildings and represents the beginning of the later stage of the estate's development which was to continue for thirty years.