

PLACE NAME: JESMOND AND ARLISTON (formerly Benton)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF GEELONG

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (References)

STYLE OR PERIOD: Victorian Eclectic (Romanesque)
ARCHITECT(S)/DESIGN ORIGIN: Not known but possibly
Reference: to the design of Alexander Davidson & Co.

BUILDER:
Reference:

PRINCIPAL ARTISANS/ARTISTS/TRADES

Reference: Humble & Nicholson, Foundry, Geelong
Casting mark on cast iron verandah and fence

TENDER NOTICE:
Reference:

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION 1880
Reference:

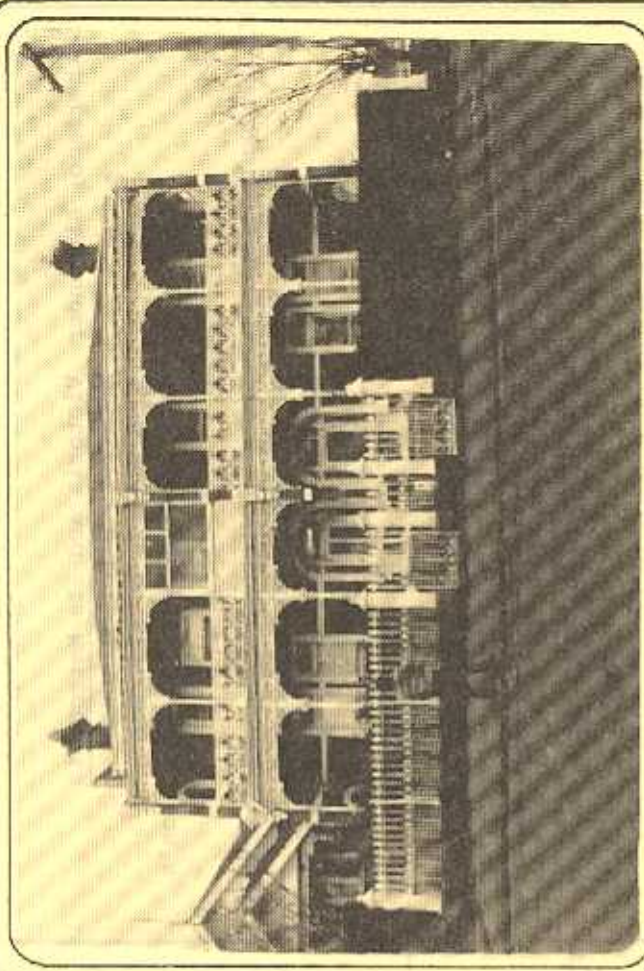
ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE

SUBSEQUENT WORKS/ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

ORIGINAL OWNER(S)/OCCUPANT(S)

SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/OCCUPANTS

OTHER NOTES



NEGATIVE FILE:

Australian Heritage Commission Register of National Estates

National Trust of Aust. (Vic) Classified/Recorded File No.

Historic Buildings Preservation Council Register No. File No.

Geelong Regional Commission Register No. 95

IDENTIFICATION DATA

PLACE NAME Jesmond and Arliston (formerly Benton)
ADDRESS 32-34 Eastern Beach Parade,
Geelong. 3220

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA City of Geelong
TITLE INFORMATION

MAP REFERENCE

PRESENT USE Residences
PRESENT OWNER/LESSEE H.C. Falliv & P.J. & S. Gerrard, 0200
ADDRESS 32 & 34 Eastern Beach Pde., TELEPHONE (052) 9 7922
Geelong. 3220

PLACE NAME JESMOND AND ARLSTON (Formerly Benton)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF GEELONG

DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES AND BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

Sutherland, Alexander Victoria and its Metropolis
McCarron, Bird, Melbourne
1888 Vol. 2. P. 154. for
details of Humble and Nicholson's
Vulcan Foundry.

Willingham, Allan, "Two Scots in Victoria: The Architecture
of Davidson and Henderson",
Master of Architecture, University
of Melbourne, 1983.

CITATION

The terrace pair of two storey brick houses known as
'Jesmond' and 'Arlston' (formerly ('Benton')) were erected
in 1880 for Ward Nicholson, part proprietor of the Vulcan
Foundry, Geelong's long established iron foundry. This
distinctive and elaborately enhanced terrace pair, with
finely detailed cast iron balcony, cement render mouldings
and interior is an important example of the terrace house
in Geelong, with detailing characteristic of the work of
Architect, Alexander Davidson, a close friend of foundry-
man Ward Nicholson, and possibly the architect for this
exceptional semi-detached pair.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE

- Its creative and/or technical accomplishment.
- Its demonstration of a way of life, custom, process or function no longer practised,
in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest.
- Its strong association with an important figure or figures, development, or cultural phase.
- Its townscape and/or landscape value.
- Its scarcity value.

SIGNIFICANCE

- LOCAL REGIONAL STATE NATIONAL WORLD

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED RUINS

INTEGRITY

- HIGH LOW ALTERED DAMAGED

RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Geelong Regional Commission Register
Australian Heritage Commission Register of the National
Estate
Historic Buildings Council Register
National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Register

DOCUMENTATION -

Allan Willingham, Architect, 151 McKean St.,
North Fitzroy, 3068. Tel: 03 489 8492.

SIGNATURE.....

DATE.....



**Jesmond, Arlston
Row Houses
32-34 Eastern Beach**

(see Geelong Regional Commission register)

History

Part of R. Heath's 1861 Crown Grant, this has been the site of the current two-storey pair since their construction in 1890-1 for the Humble & Nicholson iron foundry co-owner and engineer, Ward Nicholson.¹ When complete, they were described as each of 8 rooms (plus a kitchen and bathroom in later descriptions).² The architect, E. M. Blake designed the pair and Thomas Pescott constructed it (using Northcote bricks), after acceptance of the his tender mid 1890.³

Nicholson lived in 32 until c1900, leasing out number 34 to men like Walter Smith (shipowner) and G. Willett, a photographer. Nicholson then moved to Yarra Street and leased the pair to James Ferrier and James Gardiner (accountant).⁴

By c1906 Ward Nicholson was dead and Robert W. Nicholson was the new owner (and occupier of one of the pair by c1910). In that period, occupiers included Arthur W. Dean (minister) and Harold Mathews, a dentist: all generally of the professional classes. By c1920 another engineer, James Brown, owned and occupied 32 and the dentist, W.H. Harrison was at 34.⁵

The William Humble Ward Nicholson & Simmons (eventually Humble & Nicholson) foundry commenced in 1861, taking over William Croll's business which had commenced in the 1850s⁶. Born at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Ward Nicholson had arrived in the Colony at the age of 19, in 1857. The Cressy bridge, Geelong railway station and work at Echuca Wharf were among the large contracts taken up by the firm.⁷ On a wholesale basis, the firm made engines, boilers, refrigerators, wool presses and iron castings, including verandah posts and iron palisade fences, such as used at 32-34 Eastern Beach.⁸

1 RB1891. 600-1 'unfinished'
2 RB1892. 605-6; RB1895-6. 641-2
3 GA 22.7.90 tenders, GHRC
4 RB1904. 671-2; RB1902. 669-70
5 RB1920. 645-6
6 GHRC notes 2.90 draft GU'CS Vol. 4
7 Sutherland, p.154
8 *ibid.*

City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study
Significant Sites

Queen Anne villa style, this example is both early and accomplished in application of details (doorway, pediments) as well as an advertisement for the firm's cast-iron wares. The foundry was nearby in Little Malop Street (east of Yarra Street).

External Integrity

Generally original, except for glazed-in balcony, (part).

Streetscape

An important corner site in a residential precinct.

Significance

Historically, although occupied for only a short period by its first owner, the important Ward Nicholson, it is nevertheless a reflection of his tastes and his firm's products. Architecturally, an important milestone in the development of the Queen Anne revival style in Victoria, a popular style in the Edwardian era, and a contributor to a residential precinct.