

NAME: House

ADDRESS: 177 McKean Street

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1869
ARCHITECT: unknown
BUILDER: unknown
FIRST OWNER: Charles Harrison, Salesman
PRESENT OWNER: B.T. & M.I. Pullen
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: masonry walls, galv.
iron roof
CONSERVATION AREA: -



BUILDING CITATION.

This house, constructed in 1869, was one of the first four houses in McKean Street. In 1888 Mr. Corben, a mason, purchased the house, and the name plate next to the door "J.B. Corben" is a reminder of his occupation. The house is simple with some interesting woodwork to the verandah, a plain cornice and a simple cornice flanked by blocks supported by consoles and a pediment motif of scrolls and foliage.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that this house be specified under the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

BUILDING ANALYSIS:

This house, constructed in 1869, for Charles Harrison a Salesman¹, was one of the first four houses in McKean Street. In 1880 Henry George purchased the property and rented it to Mr. T.A. Kelly² the architect who designed St. Bridget's Church, North Fitzroy and many other buildings of importance. In 1888 the house was purchased by Emmanuel Corben,³ a mason who put up the name plate next to the door "J.B. Corben" in white marble with black inlaid marble lettering.⁴

There is interesting woodwork to the verandah : square chamfer stopped timber posts, a plain bar across at frieze level, and timber brackets of a 3 leaf design. (Some brackets and a corner post missing). There is a very plain cornice flanked by blocks supported by consoles, and a pediment motif of scrolls and foliage.

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1. Fitzroy Ratebook 1869. Charles Harrison Salesman, brick and weatherboard and land £36.
 2. Fitzroy Ratebook 1880. Kelly architect, Henry George (Owner) brick house six rooms £36.
 3. Fitzroy Ratebook 1888. Emmanuel Corben, mason (owner and occ.) brick house six rooms, £35.
 4. For Wilson Corben and Co., slate merchants, see official record of the Melbourne International Exhibition 1880-1881 advert. p. iv *Victoria and its Metropolis* Vol. 2 p.660 *Cyclopedia of Victoria* Vol 2 p.142
Isaac Corben was the founding partner of this firm, but it is very likely that J.B. Corben is connected.