

NAME: York House

ADDRESS: 131 St. Georges Road

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1877
ALTERATIONS: Verandah added c.1900
ARCHITECT: unknown
BUILDER: unknown
FIRST OWNER: John Ward
PRESENT OWNER: R.B.Flanagan
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: rendered brickwork
CONSERVATION AREA: A5



BUILDING CITATION:

This two storey house, built in 1877 for John Ward, occupies an acute-angled site. The building is simple in conception and is a comparatively early building for this part of North Fitzroy. The verandah is a later addition, probably added c.1900. The house occupies a prominent corner site. The simplicity of composition and understated detailing combine to make this a pleasing building.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that this house be retained on the Historic Buildings Register, the Register of the National Estate, and be specified under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

BUILDING ANALYSIS:

The triangular piece of land on which the two storey building at 131 St. Georges Road, North Fitzroy, now stands was owned in 1876 by James Ryan and valued at £2¹. The following year, 1877, John Ward is shown as owner of a brick house of nine rooms valued at £45. Ward also owned the adjacent brick house of five rooms valued at £28².

The building is on an acute-angled site, with the corner brought out in a verandah and balcony. The entrance is on the St. Georges Road side. There is a pair of arched windows with a common sill on the St. Georges Road elevation, and a horizontal band of an interlacing pattern containing rosettes divides the two floors. The ironwork is of a late character and the design is identical to a balcony panel which appears in the catalogue of Excelsior Iron Works, South Melbourne, produced by William Stephens in c.1900³.

A full internal inspection was not possible. However, the front room has a pleasing marble fireplace with different coloured marble colonnettes.

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1. Fitzroy Ratebook 1876. James Ryan land £2.
 2. Fitzroy Ratebook 1877. John Ward, Gentleman (owner and occupier) brick house 9 rooms £45.
 3. G.R.Robertson *Victorian Heritage, Georgian House, Melbourne*, 1960, p.74 (Plate 64).