

It is possible that Gill designed these houses as he was active in the 1850's in Fitzroy: in 1851 he designed three houses for J.P. Bear in Victoria Street, Fitzroy: in 1853 he designed a group of seven houses for William F. Splatt, M.L.C., and in 1854 Gill called tenders for two houses in Nicholson Street (probably the first part of Royal Terrace).<sup>5</sup> If it is substantiated that Gill did this terrace,<sup>6</sup> it would be the earliest known surviving terrace house which incorporated the fire-preventitive requirements of the 1849 Building Act - namely, the continuous front parapet and the projecting party walls dividing the properties.

Due to limited time it was not possible for the consultants to verify the above speculation. The buildings as they stand, have been substantially altered, but the classicizing elements to 55 and 57 are of particular interest. More research is recommended to establish the true importance of these buildings.

1. Fitzroy Ratebooks 1858: Reynolds (owner), various occupants, B.H. 7R 110.
2. Refer ratebook entries.
3. Refer 36-50 Gore Street for description of sources referred.
4. *Melbourne Herald* 6.5.1853. Tenders called by John Gill - erection of 2 dwelling houses for Captain Mair, George Street, Collingwood.
5. Information from Architects Index held at the University of Melbourne, as summarised in M.B. Lewis "64-78 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy" November 1978. p.4
6. If Ratebook searches continue to prove fruitless, reference to the M.C.C. Building Register Book is recommended.

NAME: -

ADDRESS: 67, 69 George Street.

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 67 - 1873, 69 - 1888.

ALTERATNS/ADDTNS: New tiled verandah roof to 69.

ARCHITECT: 67 - G.R. Cox

FIRST OWNER: Hewitt Henderson.

FIRST OCC./USE: 67 - Hewitt Henderson/  
dairyman/house;  
69 - Gustav Brunstein/  
waiter/house.

PRESENT OWNER: 67 - Estate of I. Duchon  
& S. Duchon.  
69 - S. Duchon.

PRESENT OCC./USE: 67 - S. Duchon & I. Anderson  
69 - G. Grigson, & B. Lewis.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: Rendered brick.

INTACTNESS/CONDITION: Substantially intact, good condition.

AREA/STREETSCAPE: Part of recommended area A4.

IMPORTANCE:



This pair of houses constructed to the design of architect G.R. Cox in 1873 and 1888 provides the most important example of Renaissance Revival terrace pair in Fitzroy. It is the only known dwelling designed by the architect, George Reilly Cox.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that this pair of houses be added to the Register of the National Estate and be specified under Clause 8 of the Town & Country Planning Act (3rd Schedule). Replacement of the verandah to No. 69 and restoration to its original form (as seen on No. 67) would result in an intact and important Renaissance Revival terrace pair.

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND EVIDENCE:

This pair of houses is presented as a unified composition despite different dates of construction. Number 67 was constructed in 1873<sup>1</sup> for Hewitt Henderson, a dairyman, to the design of architect, G.R. Cox<sup>2</sup>, and it is likely that Henderson employed the same architect when he built 69 as a pair in 1888.

Henderson was a successful dairyman and held extensive property at Epping, and his wife Jane also held property at Coburg.<sup>3</sup>

The house is the only known dwelling designed by the architect, George Reilly Cox. The Renaissance Revival window surrounds, cornice treatment and quoining result in a sophisticated composition. The exterior is intact apart from the replacement of the verandah on number 69 by an inappropriate tiled roof and column. The delicate cast iron bressummer, frieze and column to number 67 (the original verandah treatment) provides a model for restoration and replacement of the verandah to number 69. The cast iron fencing with masonry posts and bluestone plinth is intact.

Number 67 was originally used as a dairyman's residence with stabling at the rear, and retained this use until 1899. In 1900 both houses were used by boarders and owned by Mrs. Jane Henderson (it appears that Hewitt Henderson died in 1893)<sup>4</sup>.

It is considered by the consultants that 18-20 Lyons Street, Ballarat, provides a better example of a Renaissance Revival terrace house. However, this building is of great importance locally, particularly since the architect is known.

- 
1. Fitzroy Ratebooks, 1874: George Street, Hewitt Henderson, dairyman. Brick House 5 R. plus stone cottage at rear (noted as stables from 1875 onwards) £ 70.00.
  2. *Argus* 4.11.1872, G.R. Cox calls tenders for a dwelling house George Street, Fitzroy, for H. Henderson, and *Argus* 17.3.1873, p.3 G.R. Cox calls tenders for erection of two dwelling houses, George Street, Fitzroy.
  3. A. Sutherland (ed) *Victoria and its Metropolis* Vol. 2 p. 724 entry on Hewitt Henderson and Janet Henderson.
  4. Refer Ratebook entries.