



### Dr. Kilgour House, later Maidstone, 16 Myers Street

#### History

Sited over the railway tunnel and on a Crown Grant sold to J. Kilgour, this house was built well before the railway extension south in the 1870s. Commencing in 1857-8 as Dr. James Kilgour's six-room verandahed stone residence and surgery, it soon became the Rev. Andrew Love's property.<sup>1</sup> After a short occupation by Love, he (or his family) leased the house to Dr. Sydney Robinson over a long period.

The Gilchrist family, also leased the house to Robinson, who still lived there in the 1890s.<sup>2</sup> The family then leased it to Arthur Anderson for a brief period in the late 1890s, until Mary Hall owned and occupied it in the late 1890s, early 1900s.<sup>3</sup> Since the mid-1860s, it had been described as seven or eight rooms, with stable, pantry and yard. This remained so into the 1920s, when it was 'stone and brick.'<sup>4</sup> It is likely that the facade cementing and portico were added then, possibly to Laird & Buchan's design.<sup>5</sup>

Dr. Kilgour distinguished himself in 1855 by publishing a book on the Australian environment's effects on the health of British subjects, a book quickly repudiated by another medico, one Charles Syder, in the same year.<sup>6</sup> The next owner, the Presbyterian Minister, Andrew Love, was active in Geelong's social and civic development, having been the main instigator of the mechanics institute and Geelong hospital, a fact which is perhaps linked with his medical tenant.<sup>7</sup> Little is known of Dr. Robinson.<sup>8</sup>

#### Description

Parapeted, cement-faced and roofed in a simple slate-clad hip form, the house is built close to the frontage and possesses early details such as the entry top-light glazing and six-pane window sashes. The cement facade and parapet appear to be from the 1865-75 era, but the iron and cemented masonry fence is Edwardian in character. The portico appears to be of the 1920s and was not shown on the 1916 sewer plan (verandah instead): both fence and portico may have been created for Mary Hall.

1 VB1857-8, 201; VB1859-60, 266

2 RB1890, 280; RB1880, 244

3 RB1890, 280; VB1895-6, 337; RB1900, 392; RB1920, 389

4 *ibid.*

5 See GW & ST, DRP666, agents Laird & Buchan for sewer connection

6 INV, Vol.11, p.90; Vol.12, p.97

7 INV, Vol.18, p.47; Vol.15, p.107; W.R. Lang, pp.14,17,19

8 No INV. index entry, no index entry in Lang

City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study  
Significant Sites

**External Integrity**

A sympathetic fence has replaced a presumed timber picket fence and an added portico, replaced an assumed concave-profile timber post verandah.

**Streetscape**

Related in part to 18 Myers Street, also related, visually and by a brief ownership period, to the Free Presbyterian Church (1859) at the Myers Street, La Trobe Terrace corner.

**Significance**

Architecturally, altered but still recognizable as an early medium-sized stone house (despite its cement layer), it is one of the few of this vintage, size and wall material combination in Geelong, (see more numerous timber cottages).

Historically, owned and occupied by some of Geelong's early and influential citizens and, as a surgery, performing a quasi-public building role in the community.