



### Chipchase House, 8-10 Ryrie Street

Historian and physician, Wallace Frederick Hilton, was the first owner-occupier of what was described as a brick two-storey house of 10 rooms in 1930.<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Bessie Wallace, of La Trobe Terrace, Newtown, had owned two weatherboard houses on the site prior to its construction.<sup>2</sup>

Little is known of the family (who numbered five at that address in 1930), but Hilton continues there well into the 1950s.<sup>3</sup> The Hilton name is cited in Geelong's history, Hilton's bacon factory and Thomas Hilton's role in preparing the first Geelong Council's Burgess lists.<sup>4</sup> However no connection has been established.

#### Description

Rare for Geelong, this is a large two-storey post-war brick house with spacious balconies overlooking Corio Bay, (for private patients?). Like the few large houses, built in the municipality during the mid-to-late Victorian era, it has architectural pretensions well beyond the bulk of Geelong's contemporary housing. Apparently the

favoured doctor's location (see 16 Myers Street, 259 La Trobe Terrace), the La Trobe Terrace hill was then sufficiently removed from the commercial core and amongst established civic and religious complexes.

With its broad gabled roof forms, conical attic dormers and corner tower, the design has elements of both the preceding Queen Anne revival and the contemporary Bungalow style.

Asymmetrically massed by disposition of room bays, the house's north elevation is augmented by a screen-like two-level balcony, with flat Tudor arches at the upper level and basket-arches at the lower. This balcony offers an almost two-dimensional layer to the decidedly three-dimensional massing of the house proper.

It compares with houses such as Walter Cooke's 9 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe (1920), Albert Carlyle's 47 The Righi, Heidelberg (1927), 19 Carn Avenue, Ivanhoe (1926), and sites along The Esplanade, Drumcondra and La Trobe Terrace, Newtown.

#### External Integrity

Generally original.

1 RB1930, 354  
2 RB1929, 352-3  
3 D1935-55  
4 INV. V.15/69, 4/187

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ing to building. Today's gabled verandahed bay on the south-west corner was drawn as a hipped-roof sexagonal verandahed pavilion, almost detached from the main building. There was also a single-storey gabled entrance pavilion facing into the crescent. Pertinent to the inspiration for some of the timber detailing was a female figure depicted in the foreground holding a Chinese parasol. A perspective of the vast entrance hall (under the lantern ?) was equally impressive. Rich timber paneling, carved joinery and plaster detailing combined with the lofty (two-storey ?) space to present an impressive interior. Materials noted included red Northcote bricks, a bluestone base and 'plinth bands' and white bricks at the windows with Waurin Ponds freestone heads. The cost was estimated at £3500.<sup>1</sup>

Whether built as drawn or not, the house is impressive externally and ideally suited to its corner site, given the corner tower (and lantern ?). The 'tea-house' hip on the main roof and the gabled verandahed bays have a strong Far Eastern character, while the tower itself lends a French element to the already picturesque assembly.

**External Integrity**

Generally original, except for closing in of the lockout (assumed not a lantern) and replacement of the fence. The Edwardian character, square-top picket fence remnant may be original.

**Streetscape**

A major element in an important Victorian era residential streetscape (precinct 3.7).

**Significance**

Historically, connected to three prominent Geelong residents, Scott, Scott Jnr., and Wilson

Architecturally, an innovative and successful design for its period and ideally suited to its location, also contributory to an important streetscape.

1 BEMJ 7/11/91, p.207