



## John Gibson House 38 Sydney Avenue

### History

Philip Rodgers' Crown Grant of 1862 was sold to Alex Macdonald two years later, together with other allotments, for a mere £40.<sup>1</sup>

Early in 1891, the architect E M Blake called tenders for its construction, paralleling with his design at 32-4 Eastern Beach for Ward Nicholson (q.v.)<sup>2</sup>. By 1892, a two-storey brick eight-room house with kitchen bathroom and stable, occupied by George Gibson, was recorded in rate books as existing on the site.<sup>3</sup> It was owned and occupied briefly by W G Cutts, early this century,<sup>4</sup> but within 10 years, Cutts had been replaced by John L Gibson, another member of the Colac grazier family.<sup>5</sup> He remained there into the 1950s when R J Gibson (an architect) was the listed occupier.<sup>6</sup>

### Description

A large two-storey English Queen Anne styled red brick villa, the house has the style's typical 'half-timbered' roof

gables, bracketed window hoods and timber verandah detailing. The chimney cornices are also pedimented. At the rear is an extensive servants' wing, around the perimeter, a capped corrugated iron fence and, within the grounds, mature exotic landscape.

### External Integrity

A major detraction to this very 'visible' building is the verandah enclosure on the north and east fences. The fence may have been altered in detail.

### Streetscape

A major corner element in an Edwardian and Victorian era residential streetscape, also contributory to a similar precinct (3.7).

### Significance

Historically, a long association with the pastoralist Gibson family provides a link to Geelong's wool-growing foundation.

Architecturally, an early and successful example of the Queen Anne revival style and an important streetscape element, (see 17 Pevensey Crescent).

1 RGO 499  
2 GA 15.1.91 tenders called, GHRC notes GCUCS 2.90 draft  
3 RB1892, 362; RB1899, 819  
4 RB 1909, 824  
5 RB 1920, 942  
6 D1920-61

**Clifton  
38 Sydney Avenue**

**History**

Philip Rodgers' Crown Grant of 1862 was sold to Alex Macdonald two years later, together with other allotments, for a mere £40.<sup>1</sup>

Early in 1891, the architect E M Blake called tenders for its construction, paralleling with his design for the houses at 32-34 Eastern Beach for Ward Nicholson (q.v.)<sup>2</sup>. By 1892, a two-storey brick eight-room house with kitchen bathroom and stable, occupied by George N. Gibson, was recorded in rate books as existing on the site.<sup>3</sup> At the time, George Gibson was a partner in the grocery firm of Cameron Gibson & Co. of Gheringhap Street<sup>4</sup>. John Philpott, a shipping manager, occupied the house in 1899 when it was owned by John Gibson of Colac<sup>5</sup>.

The house was owned and occupied briefly by W G Cutts, early this century,<sup>6</sup> but within 10 years (c1916), Cutts had been replaced as occupier by grazier, John Lawrence Gib-

son, but the property was in the name of Grace Gibson of Colac.<sup>7</sup> John remained there as owner-occupier during the 1930s into the 1950s when his son, R.J. Gibson (an architect) was the listed occupier.<sup>8</sup>

**Description**

A large two-storey English Queen Anne styled red brick villa, the house has the style's typical 'half-timbered' roof gables, bracketed window hoods and timber verandah detailing. The chimney cornices are also pedimented. At the rear of the house is an extensive servants' wing, around the perimeter, a capped corrugated iron fence and, within the grounds, mature exotic landscape.

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1 RGO 499  
2 GA 15.1.91 tenders called, GHRC notes GUCUS 2.90 draft  
3 RB1892, 362; RB1899, 819  
4 WD1893-4  
5 RB1899, 819; WD1897-8, 1899-1900 no Gibson at Colac  
6 RB 1909, 824  
7 RB 1920, 942; cites as 1916 by Jean Gibson. letter Jan. 1993  
8 D1920-61; Jean Gibson, loc.cit., cites 1956-92 (death)

**Streetscape**

Because of its corner site and relatively large scale, the house is a major element in an Edwardian and Victorian era residential streetscape, also contributory to a similar precinct (3.7).

**Significance**

Historically, there appears to be a long association with the John L. Gibson, a Colac grazier, and hence this may provide a link to Geelong's wool-growing foundation. Architecturally, the house is an early and successful example of the Queen Anne revival style and an important streetscape-element (see also 17 Pevensey Crescent).

The house was built in the name of Grace Gibson of Colac. It is believed that it was owned-occupied during the 1890s when his son, R.L. Gibson (an architect) lived in it.

The house is a fine example of the Queen Anne revival style. It features a half-timbered roof, a prominent chimney, and a wrap-around porch. The exterior is finished with red brick and white timberwork. The interior is also well preserved, showing original features such as the staircase and the fireplace.

The house is a very visible building in the streetscape. It is a good example of the Queen Anne revival style and is a significant element in the streetscape.

Gibson  
38 Sydney Avenue  
History

Philip Rodgers, Colac grazier, built the house in 1891 for a mere £400. It is a fine example of the Queen Anne revival style. The house was built in the name of Grace Gibson of Colac. It is believed that it was owned-occupied during the 1890s when his son, R.L. Gibson (an architect) lived in it.

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- 8. R.D. 100