

**Bluestone Houses, 27, 29 Clifton Ave, Clifton Hill, VIC, Australia**

**Photographs:**



**List:** Register of the National Estate

**Class:** Historic

**Legal Status:** [Registered](#) (30/06/1992)

**Place ID:** 15230

**Place File No:** 2/11/012/0016

**Statement of Significance:**

These 1850s houses are significant for having been built partly for, and occupied by, Samuel Ramsden and his family. Ramsden was, among other things, owner of Melbourne's first paper mill - an enterprise which helped to lay the foundations of today's paper industry (Criterion H.1).

Although the buildings have been altered their bluestone construction is important, for bluestone houses are relatively rare in Victoria and are limited to the early period of the State's development. Additionally, the bluestone reflects both the original state of this site (a quarry) and the owners' quarrying activities here, factors which give the buildings added interest (Criterion B.2).

**Official Values:** Not Available

**Description:**

These two bluestone houses were built as part of a house group owned by Samuel Ramsden, Henry Brown and Charles Brown. They were constructed sometime before 1864 and sometime after the site was acquired in 1850-51. Kearney's 1855 plan shows buildings on the site. The Ramsden family owned and occupied the houses until the late 1880s. Ramsden was a partner in the large contracting firm of Brown & Ramsden (which ran a quarrying business close by), and was also a flour mill owner and owner of Melbourne's first paper mill, a forerunner of Australian Paper Manufacturers. Later owners included William Cooper, also a builder, Ernest Brewer and the Henry family. Number 27 Clifton Ave is a hipped roof double-fronted rubble bluestone house with verandahs on two sides (one of which is new) connected to a small adjoining bluestone out-building at 29 Clifton Avenue. Both have slate roofs and once stood on three acres of land stretching from Ramsden to Roseneath Streets. A verandah has been added to the side of 29 Clifton Ave in probably the Federation period.

**History:** Not Available

**Condition and Integrity:**

The house walls, roofs and most openings are intact; however there have been various alterations and additions, including the new unrelated Federation-period verandah to 27 and another similar one to the side of 29. The stone has been painted on 29, openings altered and the front door replaced. (1990)

**Location:**

27, 29 Clifton Avenue, Clifton Hill.

**Bibliography:**

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) file 4176.

"Australian Encyclopaedia", vol.6, (Sydney 1988).