House, 12 Union St, Richmond, VIC, Australia

Photographs:

List:	Register of the National Estate
Class:	Historic
Legal Status:	Registered (21/03/1978)
Place ID:	5392
Place File No:	2/11/044/0003

Statement of Significance:

The Union Street Tower House is an innovative, original Classic Revival design of unusual detail and without parallel in Victoria. The use of flat Corinthian pilasters to enframe windows is a notable technique. The house is one of the oldest surviving substantial stone houses in Richmond and a fine example of masonry construction. Built for noted pioneer, surgeon, James Robertson, the house dominated the Punt Road region of Richmond until the 1880s.

(The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements for places listed prior to 1991. The above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the Commission.)

Official Values: Not Available

Description:

The eight room, two storey bluestone Tower House at 12 Union Street, Richmond, was erected c 1858-59 for Melbourne surgeon, James Robertson, on part of a subdivision financed by the Union Benefit Building and Investment Society. The unusual and naive Classical Revival design of rock-faced basalt walls, fine axed stone quoins enhanced with elaborate Corinthian pilasters, pedimented gables and lofty tower is of unknown origin.

History: Not Available

Condition and Integrity:

Although the interior has not been inspected, the Tower House stands in good condition and of high integrity. The roof slates have been replaced by tiles.

Location:

12 Union Street, Richmond.

Bibliography:

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA(VIC)FILE NO.3273 'RESEARCH NOTES INTO 12 UNION STREET,RICHMOND' 1974.
2.CITY OF RICHMOND RATE BOOKS
3.TITLES OFFICE VICTORIA RECORDS