



**Robert Neimke row houses, later St. Margaret's private hospital  
325-7 Ryrie Street**

**History**

Described as two brick houses each of 6 rooms plus bathroom and pantry, this row was built for Robert Neimke in 1885-6. He occupied 325 Ryrie.<sup>1</sup>

Joseph Stone, a 'gentleman', was the next owner-occupier, leasing one of the houses to Henry Dagg, a draper.<sup>2</sup> After his death, Stone's executors leased the pair to W C Harriot, civil engineer, and John Corbett, iron moulder in the first two decades of this century.<sup>3</sup> Annie Stone lived in 325 during that period.

From 1921, the pair was united into a 12-room private hospital, for Sister Dowling's Cassiford House. About two years later, it was run by Mary Marquardt and Grace Darling Trebilcock as St. Margaret's private hospital.<sup>4</sup>

The two sisters had recently returned from overseas service with the Australian Imperial Forces and for the next 25 years they conducted a...very well regarded private

hospital embracing midwifery, general medicine and a good range of surgery and accident work.<sup>5</sup> After post-war use as a boarding house, St. Margaret's was acquired by Geelong Hospital for eventual use as the Geelong Hospital Nurses Training School.<sup>6</sup>

**Description**

An Italianate styled row house pair, these houses are constructed of decorative, coloured brickwork and linked by an ornate cast-iron verandah, adorned with a central arch. Possessing typical details for the style, including corniced chimneys, eaves brackets, paneled door side and top lights, the pair is nevertheless an unusual form-type in Geelong. Judged within a wider area, the pair are larger than typical Melbourne row houses and configured more as two attached villas.

**External Integrity**

Generally original.

1 RB 1886,172-3  
2 RB 1900, 253-4  
3 RB1909, 255-6;RB 1920, 257-8  
4 RB 1920, 257-8; RB 1930,264; D1930-9; *The Investigator* 3.78 p.30 'The St. Margaret Story' by N Cust  
5 *ibid.*  
6 *ibid.*; RB 1960,-; RB 1950, 293- leased by doctor from Marquardt then of Mundy Street

City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study  
Significant Sites

**Streetscape**

A major corner element in an important Edwardian and Victorian era streetscape, also contributory to the similar era precinct 3.7.

**Significance**

Historically, inhabited by the middle and professional classes, but it is more identifiable as the St. Margaret's Private Hospital, a locally prominent institution.

Architecturally, an unusual building type for Geelong, which has been detailed in a distinctive manner, particularly the verandah.