

**GLEN CAIRN  
HOUSE  
473 NAPIER STREET, WHITE HILLS**

**SURVEY DATE: 1991-2  
STUDY GRADING: B**

**CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1895  
FIRST OWNER : MILLER, ALBION T**



**CITATION:**

**History**

Albion T Miller, a potato merchant, owned this house when it was built in 1894-5<sup>1</sup>. A previous land owner had been Amilia Burstall, in the late 1880s, in an area which was still used mainly for agriculture<sup>2</sup>. Miller was listed as resident in the house until the 1920s by which time he owned a number of blocks in the area<sup>3</sup>. Glen Cairn was

<sup>1</sup> RB.12.1894.7044 unfinished  
<sup>2</sup> RB.11.1889.6862  
<sup>3</sup> D1920; RB(12)1916.8003

**BENDIGO & EAGLEHAWK HERITAGE STUDY-SIGNIFICANT SITES  
GRAEME BUTLER & ASSOCIATES**

leased to Thomas Liddel, a railway employee, in the 1920s along with others such as Robert Forbes. The house was eventually acquired by the Jennings family<sup>1</sup>.

An Albion T Miller died in 1915, aged 69, and may have been A T Miller's father<sup>2</sup>. Albion Thomas Miller married Carol M Jones at Sandhurst in 1880, their first son being Ernest Albion Miller who was born in 1885<sup>3</sup>.

### **Description**

Clad in weatherboards, the house has a highly detailed bullnose- roof verandah which crosses the front and returns down the side. However more distinctive are the twin ornamented gables which are symmetrically placed around a gablet roof vent and are reminiscent of those seen on Beebe's design for Rae c1900 in Happy Valley Road (q.v.). Each gable sits over a large window group placed either side of the central entrance, the southern group being larger than the other and was presumably enlarged later (in the 1920s?) as suggested by the leadlight pattern.

### **External Integrity**

Generally original with colours and front fence related to the period.

### **Landscape**

Sparse planting but camellia may be original. Garden sympathetic and contributory.

### **Significance**

Architecturally, the house is typical of Bendigo's distinctive late 19th century and early 20th century domestic architecture, particularly in the use of the gable detailing, and may have been designed by William Beebe. Its early date also predates the widespread use of this style in Melbourne during the Edwardian era.

Historically, the connection with White Hills agricultural pursuits, particularly potato growing, is a contrast to the gold searching preoccupation of Bendigo and Eaglehawk and hence a reminder that areas such as White Hills had an equally important supporting role in the continuing gold production of the district.

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<sup>1</sup> RB.12.1950.8697  
<sup>2</sup> AOB V4,p418 obit.; Mrs. Miller dies in May 1915, aged 80  
<sup>3</sup> BDM