

**Belgrave House 1219-25 Dandenong Road, Malvern East - R**

1856 Robert and Elizabeth Benson purchase Crown Allotment 166, and erect wood house on this 14 acre site, also own 22 acres north of Waverley road to Gardiners Creek

1862 Benson elected to Gardiner Road Board

1864 elected Chairman Gardiner Road Board, continued on council for 25 years, four terms as Shire President

1873 current residence replace timber house, named Belgrave after town in Leicestershire in England, originally featured return verandah and conservatory; surrounding land used for pasture

1894 WG Benson executor of R Benson's estate, new owner, leases house to private occupiers until when Salvation Army leases house as Girls Industrial School; land sale??

1899 Pioneering film *Soldiers of the Cross* made on tennis court

1912 Salvation Army vacates site, returns to private occupation

1919 last record of property in Benson ownership

1942 converted into apartments by Mrs Casey

1947-72 Kitchin family ownership, veranda removed

19?? Converted to hostel accommodation

(source Malvern Archives)

*Belgrave* remains as a substantial residence, although now on an allotment of a conventional size. The main structure and a number of outbuilding remains, The main features are:

- o the two projecting two storey angled bays which formerly enclosed a return verandah
- o original roof form and original or early slate roof and
- o the encaustic tiles for the verandah floor along the Dandenong road section
- o original window and door joinery
- o the cement render to the exterior which retains window architraves to the first floor, one chimney cornice, and ashlar coursing

*Belgrave* is of regional significance. It provides a landmark to this major intersection that reflects the earliest development of the area. It has important historic associations with local government and the history of world cinema.