

**FENTONGOVE  
HOUSE  
3 STALEY STREET**

**SURVEY DATE: 1991-2**

**STUDY GRADING: B**

**CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1873**

**FIRST OWNER : PHILLIPS, ELIJAH J**



**CITATION:**

**History**

Elijah James Phillips had a brick house built on land he owned in 1873.<sup>1</sup> Phillips, a miner, owned the property until 1897, occupying it until the late 1880s and renting it for the remaining years.<sup>2</sup> Martin Goudge, also a miner, purchased the property from Phillips in 1897 and resided there until after 1915.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> RB1872, 1393; RB1873, 1478  
<sup>2</sup> RB1885, 1553; RB1892, 1598; RB1896, 1761; RB1897, 1791  
<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*: RB1915, 1356

A blacksmith, Thomas Eddy, owned the property for a short time in the early 1920s, but sold to Hugh Richards, a carter, in 1923.<sup>1</sup> Richards occupied the property for more than a decade.<sup>2</sup> By 1941 William Nicholas Marchingo owned the property, using it for a poultry farm until after 1950.<sup>3</sup> He leased it to various poultry farmers.<sup>4</sup>

### **Description**

Asymmetrically planned, double-fronted and constructed of three- colour brickwork, the house stands out from other similarly aged houses because of its parapeted form, more typical of inner urban Melbourne. The corrugated iron roof is in a W-form, with expressed gabled parapets on its east side, while the parapet to the projecting room bay has a semi-circular pediment with acroterion atop. Openings and corners are typically trimmed with cream bricks and dark brown bricks are used, alternately with the creams, to provide a chequer effect along the cornice, as a fascia or dentils.

The verandah roof is convex in form and hipped, whilst posts are timber with moulded metal capitals, other applied mouldings and stop-chamfering to corners. Front windows are generally three- light with spiraled colonettes.

The cast-iron pattern used is similar to an 1888 patent, but was more popularly used in Melbourne during the Edwardian period. However, the most unusual decorative elements are the cream terra-cotta chimney pots to all but one of the six remaining shafts.

### **External Integrity**

The bricks have been painted; one chimney pot and the front fence (presumed timber picket) removed, and a reproduction of the verandah adapted for use as a side carport.

### **Context**

Surrounded by later housing, but it relates to the nearby California Gully School and an old double-gabled cottage at 2 Rose Street. An extensively altered house lies to the east in Staley Street.

### **Significance**

Architecturally, the house has unusual brick details and an unusual parapeted form, with a multi-gabled side parapet profile which suggests sequential construction, although there is no supporting evidence for this. It also possesses notable terra- cotta chimney pots.

Historically, it was located next to some major mine sites and presumably this reflects Phillips' occupation.

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1 RB1920-21, 1151; RB1923, 785  
2 *ibid.*; RB1934-35, 896  
3 RB1941-42, 896; D1950  
4 RB1941-42, 896; RB1946, 910