

Sandhurst Club Building

Rear of 18 View Street,

Creation Date: 1893

First or Major
Owners/Occupiers:

Architect: Vahland, W.C. and Son

Builder:

Status: Highly Significant and Contributory



History

"Probably many Bendigonians have never noticed this two- storey building in Rosalind Park, within a stone's throw of the Alexandra Fountain. Members of the Sandhurst Club contributed the £2,300 necessary to build for themselves these handsome clubrooms in 1893, and obtained a forty-two year lease on the site. All other attempts to lease part of the park for private purposes had proved unsuccessful."

In 1892 , W.C. Vahland took his eldest son, Henry, into partnership. From this time there is a recognisable style, attributed to Henry, which is well represented in the Sandhurst Club building. The elaborate joinery marks the transition from the 'fussiness' of cast-iron patterns towards the simpler designs of the twentieth century. The similarity between this building, Caradon (p.120) and Penwinnick (P.147) is markedly apparent" (ibid, Page 24).

Description

An unusual site for clubrooms, at the rear of and attached to, a commercial building (18), the building nevertheless takes full advantage of its site and presents a bayed, timber post-supported verandah to the park. Typically for the era, the walls are predominantly red brick with finely detailed masonry quoins and architraves as relief. Vahland's classical inclinations show on the single-storey bay facing the park, with its hipped roof and bracketed pediment over the window, but the more fanciful and contemporary architecture, best employed by Beebe, emerges in the finely timbered main gable, verandah frieze and balustrading. Another gesture to Medieval inspirations is the grouped chimneys, albeit with Italianate cornices. The western view is less contrived, with a blank, gabled wall and corrugated iron (rusted) roofscape of hips and rear skillions, dominating. Of more note is the roof lantern to what may be the billiard room, a hipped roof pavilion attached to the main building. A large leaded window in a stair hall dominates the north elevation. (Further inspection needed).

A notable timber fence and gate (with copper repousse plate depicting 'SC') survive along with much of the original garden.

External Integrity

The northern verandah has been extended towards the park, using presumably temporary framing and sheeting, a porch/verandah has been filled in on the west elevation.

Streetscape

Not visible from the street, but nevertheless part of the Precinct for near to 100 years and potentially contributory to the historic nature of the park as the only View Street building which addresses it.

Significance

Architecturally, the building is interesting as a large example of a fusion of two Bendigo styles, the classicism of Vahland and the ornate timber trusswork of Beebe (albeit from Vahland's office); and the use of the high gabled form and verandah layers being well suited to the elevated (but unusual) hillside site.

Historically, this has been the venue for Bendigo's most prestigious private club over a long period.

Conservation Management

Prepare a conservation analysis of the site and adopt a restoration programme which would include enhancement of the public elevations, fronting the park and maintenance of the private garden to achieve the full contribution of a potentially notable building.