

**HOUSE
44 BELLE VUE ROAD,**

SURVEY DATE: 1991-2

STUDY GRADING: B

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1865

FIRST OWNER : LISLE, ROBERT



CITATION:

History

Built:c1865

This house lies on an allotment granted to R (Robert) Lisle in 1865.¹ He also purchased a Lot adjoining on the north.² An early map shows the Lots just south of the United Bell Vue Company Mine and just west of Poverty Gully.³

¹ CA69
² CA68

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

Directories of the period list Robert Lisle as a miner in Golden Square.¹ By the 1870s he has gone.² Only one other Lisle (John) was listed in post office directories of the Colony.³ A Welshman, Robert Lisle, died in 1871, aged 45: he may have been related to the grantee of this property.⁴ Today's nearby Lisle Street presumably commemorates his name.

Lisle, listed as a quartz miner, owned a house and land on the Sheepshead Reef early in the 1860s.⁵ By 1865 he owns and occupies this property and continued to do so until early this century, when he was described as a 'mine manager.'⁶ Lisle is thought to have partnered Abraham Harkness in the Victoria Foundry .

Lisle was one of the instigators of Methodism at Golden Square in the 1850s. He helped purchase a site for the new stone church (open December, 1859), which followed the first 1852 structure.⁸ The new 1870 church benefactors included Richard Allingham and Union claim holders (Lisle?).

Ann Gill, a widow, continued the ownership through the First War into the 1930s, when the Star Building Society was listed as 'owner' and the occupier (and mortgagee?), first James Loy, then John Qualtrough.¹⁰ Qualtrough, a forester, lived there, with Elsie Qualtrough, until the 1970s, with Allan Qualtrough owning land beside them in the 1950s.¹¹

Description

A double-fronted red brick (painted over) villa, with a hipped- form slate roof and concave-profile verandah. Set side-on to the street and the nearby Poverty Gully, it faces across Lisle's other block, back towards Bendigo town. It also faces the United Belle Vue Company gold mine site. The house's most unusual attribute is the verandah detailing. Paired posts (Ionic) support miniature entablatures, capitals and intricate fret-sawn arch spandrels which recall other notable buildings such as 50 Church Street, Eaglehawk, Falkland House, Long Gully (Vahland & Getzschmann, 1870) and 12 Bannerman Street, Bendigo, (R A Love, 1871).

Openings have segment-arch heads, with indications of contrasting colours in the voussoirs, and the stuccoed chimneys have relatively slim cornice mouldings, typical of mid, rather than late, Victorian-era details.

External Integrity

An early picket fence may survive in an altered form at the frontage (tops cut square) and the brickwork has been painted, albeit a 'brick colour.'

Context

Immediate mature landscape includes the Roman Cypress specimens. Beyond are the gold fields (United Belle Vue, Eureka, Napoleon United, Golden and Poverty Gullies). Other early buildings include 58, 60 and 51 Belle Vue Road.

Landscape

Mature landscape includes 'Cupressus torulosa' along the fence line and a large evergreen tree (possibly an 'Arbutus unedo') which is contributory.

Significance

Architecturally, the house is distinguished by its ornate early verandah, potentially its brickwork and its adverse siting, which points to its historical associations and lends it prominence, sited on a minor hill.

15 'Bendigo' annotated Parish Plan, n.d.
1 BD1869, 1870
2 BD1875, 1871-2
3 ibid.
4 BDM8940
5 RB1864, 1732
6 RB1865, 4353 by order and NAV; RB1910, 3572
7 Butcher-draft p.9
8 AOB, vol.5, p.158
9 ibid.
10 RB1931, 338; RB1934, 3398
11 RB1972-31, 7539

Historically, it is also contemporary with the surrounding major gold mining field and provides valuable built components to the historical importance of this part of the Bendigo field.

Its creator and long-term occupier, Robert Lisle, was part of the Golden Square mining fraternity and co-financier of the Methodist Church in the locality.