

**HOUSE
237 EAGLEHAWK ROAD,**

SURVEY DATE: 1991-2

STUDY GRADING: B

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1864c

FIRST OWNER : WILLIAMS, T S ?



CITATION:

History

Built: c1864

T S Williams was the grantee of this site in 1864, along with two other lots in the area¹. Many years later the property was known as 479 Backhaus Street and owned by Charles Ruston and Daisy Head, Ruston having resided there since c1930². Prior to that Herbert Twigg had occupied the house³, after a succession of Methodist clergy (California Hill?), the Revs. Thomas Collins and W S Palamountain³.

¹ CAs192,193,194/A 15.11.64
² BSA DRP 63 1954;D1930-62

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

Description

Faced with Flemish-bonded red brick (9"?), this house is constructed substantially from random rubble freestone, with red brick also used for the three visible corbel-top chimneys and as a border to side-wall openings. The high simply-hipped roof line is also typical of early houses, together with a simple skillion roof at the rear over service rooms. A 1950s plan shows six main rooms and what appears to have been a detached kitchen, scullery and servants room in a proposal to convert the house to two flats¹.

The original hipped and concave line of the verandah roof line is also still visible, despite recent recladding with bituminous covered aluminium tiles. A scalloped timber verandah frieze also appears original, stretching between coupled timber posts with built-up capitals. Although possibly not the original balustrading, the lattice-work is related to the house construction period. Rubble stonework supports the verandah and a grand stair, constructed from brick and stucco, piered and with a mid-landing, descends to the lower lawn.

External Integrity

New unrelated cladding has been added to the main and verandah roof and the eaves rebuilt. What may have been a stone detached kitchen or service wing at the rear has been rendered, its chimney part demolished and a cement-sheet clad storey added.

The front fence has been replaced in chain wire and a security door added. A ruinous stone wall is on the north side of the house.

Context

The house adjoins a double-fronted timber Victorian-era (?) house which resembles it in siting, form, period detail and scale. Other adjacent housing is unrelated generally, except for a timber cottage (c1860) at 4 Sheridan Street, which appears of the gold-era, given its siting relationship with nearby diggings.

Significance

Architecturally, the house is of a minority building material in the study area (stone) and possesses some early verandah details. It also is related to nearby houses of a similar age.

Historically, the house is recognisably from the early era of quartz mining in the locality and appears, by its ownership, to have had some connection with this activity which was so significant in the district. It has also been the residence of successive clergy and hence takes on a quasi-public building role given the prominence of these men in that era.

²¹
1 D1915-20
BSA

