

**HOUSE
6 JENNINGS STREET**

SURVEY DATE: 1991-2

STUDY GRADING: B

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1889

FIRST OWNER : DAY, ALFRED



CITATION:

History

In 1889 Alfred Day had a brick and stucco dwelling built on his land off Charleston Road.¹ Listed in c1899 as 'a dealer' of Hargreaves Street and a 'Marine dealer' in Lyttleton Street, Day was an asphalter and bone mill

1 RB1889-90, 7042

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

proprietor by c1910.¹ Day owned and occupied the property until 1912, when Lucy K Day, possibly his daughter, became the owner-occupier for two years.²

3,8196; RB1914-15, 8237 William S Dunstan, a butcher, purchased the property from Lucy Day and occupied it until after 1925.³ A farmer, William F Dole, owned and occupied the property by 1939 and remained here until after 1962.⁴

Day was lauded as the proprietor of the district's 'principal asphaltting works,' as well as a number of other associated enterprises in 'Bendigo and Vicinity.'⁵ He was born in Chilwell, Nottinghamshire, in 1845 where, after gaining experience on the Continent, he was employed by the London patentees of asphaltting, William & Thomas Smart. In Australia, after reef mining at Eaglehawk, Day returned to the asphalt trade, improving his business to such a degree as to require a move from Eaglehawk to Lucan Street, Bendigo, in 1874, moving again in 1882, to his Charleston Road works. There, he developed artificial fertilisers for farming, bone dust, etc. To feed the growing demand for bone dust, Day established his Hargreaves Street marine stone (behind the Mechanics Institute).

He claimed to have laid much of the asphalt footpaths and pitcher channels in both Bendigo and Eaglehawk, as well as other major towns in the area. He also laid the first asphalt railway platform in the Colony, at Bendigo in 1875. He also married in 1875, generating four sons (A A Day, R W and E Harry Day) as partners in his business, Harry being encharged with the family farm (Goornong). In 1895 Day was termed as 'among the leaders of Bendigo industry and commerce.'

This house adjoined Day's 'Charleston Road' works, which faced Day Street. Day celebrated his business with a broadsheet (c1893) which shows this house, his bone mills and his 'central depot,' the last being a distinctive structure with a central, high gabled bay and skillions to either side.⁶

Description

Built in red brickwork, the house has the distinctive Bendigo decorated gables, with ornate fretted detailing set within the guss members. Cast-iron friezes are set in panels on the verandah and the brackets create an archway at the entry. Another Bendigo stylistic trademark is the pedimented window group on the projecting gabled bay. Large brick and corrugated iron clad outbuildings are at the rear of the site, which were presumably part of Day's works, (further inspection needed). The landscape setting is sympathetic to the house construction date, (palms, circular gravel drive).

External Integrity

Front fence removed (picket?).

Context

Isolated and hence it invites speculation as to the original ownership, given the size and richness of detail.

Landscape

Essentially a new garden which is a reconstructed garden sympathetic to the site but of no individual significance. A Jacaranda and arch at the rear may be of historic significance.

Significance

Architecturally, distinctive in the State context as a Bendigo design, the house has rich detailing from late last Century which is not matched by other examples.

Landscape, of no heritage significance.

Historically, created for one of Bendigo's most successful 19th and early 20th Century businessmen, Alfred Day, and physically related by its proximity to his works, a once typical practice of owners of expanding businesses.

1 WD1899, D1910
2 RB1911-12, 8791; RB1912-1
3 ibid.; RB1925-26, 7630
4 RB1939-40, 8504; D1962
5 p. 109
6 BCL Collection