

**HOUSE
117 MITCHELL STREET**

SURVEY DATE: 1991-2

STUDY GRADING: B

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1908

FIRST OWNER : ROCKETT, DR. PAT



CITATION:

History

Dr. Patrick Rockett was the first owner of this large house and surgery from its construction in 1908¹. However, Alfred Nankervis had taken up residence there by the 1920s and remained so until his death. His widow (?) Mrs. F M Nankervis lived at the house until the 1950s, after which a physician, M Clark, occupied it.²

¹ rate assessment 1.1908, 4200 land; rate assessment 12.1908, 4199 land and house
² D1920-62

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

Rockett died at Brighton in 1935, aged 68, having practised in Bendigo for several years. He was born in Queenscliff, son of a bay pilot, Capt. William Rockett (see Allom Lovell, Queenscliffe Conservation Study)¹.

Description

Similar to at least two other large late Victorian & Edwardian era houses sited on major corners further east along Mitchell Street, this red brick and stucco two-storey house has the typical main hipped roof with gabled room bays protruding on either side of a return verandah. Not typical, however, is the skirt-like shingling at first floor level, with its concave profile, while the combination of brick piers (to first level) and partly spiraled cement Ionic-order columns is also not widely used in the study area.

The cast-iron balustrading has a distinct Arts & Crafts character (inverted heart). The gables are half-timbered and gain support from slatted brackets. Segment-arched and fully (stilted) arched windows occur both in a Venetian or Serlian configuration, are other important facade elements. Notable leadlight glazing has also been used, along with a circular window on the east side. At the rear is a brick stable block and the Canary Island Date Palm on the east is a major remnant of an early garden.

External Integrity

The front fence has been replaced.

Context

Isolated from the main commercial area and any other residential enclave, the house relates in general period to the adjacent Railway Reserve Gardens and the Victorian Railways Institute Building (1924).

Significance

Architecturally, the house is prominent because of its size and its type, given the prevailing nearby commercial use. Its style is also unusual, as are many of its details notable.

Historically, it has been linked over a long period with the city's medical practitioners and generally complete (stables and some garden), the house expresses well their period of occupancy.

1 AOB V5, pp.185B,187C