

**HILLSBRO
HOUSE
511 NAPIER STREET, WHITE HILLS**

SURVEY DATE: 1991-2

**STUDY GRADING: B
CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1893
FIRST OWNER : SCHLEIGER, EDWARD**



CITATION:

History

W V Simons was granted this allotment (411/4) in 1857. Beside it were J Ellison's blocks (1854-5) which formed the corner with Plumridge Street (CA 1,3-4/4).¹ Opposite was the Wesleyan Church reserve (now Uniting) and a

1 Sandhurst Parish

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

former police station site (gazetted in 1872).¹ All were in the old White Hills Township Plan of c1854, with its distinctive crescents at either end.

More recent history starts with Charles Schleiger, a long-established White Hills butcher, who owned a number of allotments in the area, including this one, early in the 1890s.² Charles and Mary Schleiger had a son, Edward E. Schleiger, in 1868.³ It was Edward who owned this lot in 1893 and had commenced erecting the present building,⁴ while Charles continued his tenure of sites further along Napier Street.⁵

Ernest also maintained his occupation of this site well into the 1950s, when the property was described as '419 Napier Street'.⁶ Throughout that period the property was described in ratebooks as land and house 'etc.' and, for much of that period, William E Schleiger, Albion and Ernest Jnr., all owned property nearby in Napier Street. The rate valuation also rose, in the period 1904-1909, which may suggest alterations or additions to the property or the shop construction which was shown on a 1931 plan as part of the property.⁸

Ernest's father, Charles Schleiger, was listed as a butcher at White Hills in the mid-1850s, having arrived in Bendigo during the gold rush era, in 1854.⁹ Born at Magdeburg, he added to the relatively large percentage, among the non-Britishers on the goldfields, of German born. He continued to run his business until near his death, in 1907.¹⁰

Description

Flanked by a mature Canary Island Date Palm, this timber house repeats the highly decorated type seen elsewhere in the area and so closely linked with Bendigo's house styles of c1900. Against a high hipped roof, clad in corrugated iron, is the typical half-timbered ornamental gable, here placed over a room bay. Another smaller gable marks the return of the bullnose-profile verandah with its unusual fret-sawn brackets and wave-pattern vertical slotted frieze. The whole is in the manner of the tea-house bijou villa described by Robin Boyd as the Queen Anne style, but also reflecting aspects of the Federation Bungalow and its Asian inspirations.¹¹ Scrolled trusswork has been used over the door and there are some notable leadlights.

External Integrity

Generally original. The front fence has been replaced with a timber picket, typical of the era.

Context

Related closely to the adjoining timber shop, with its fanciful parapet form and a group of similarly-styled houses facing Napier Street (467, 473, 517) and generally within the old town of White Hills. The palm adds a more immediate period context for the house.

Landscape

Garden obscured behind recent timber picket fence but possibly of recent origin. Planting of significance includes 'Phoenix canariensis' and 'Cedrus deodara'.

Significance

Architecturally, the house is a good example of the highly decorated timber-built style used around Bendigo at the turn of the century. It has distinctive verandah details and an empathetic landscape setting which corresponds to the general house and shop group set within the old White Hills Township.

Historically, its long association with the pioneering Schleiger family lends local importance.

Landscape, locally important.

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ibid.
RB1892, 6822
BDM; B.6251
RB1893, 7016 'unfinished'
ibid.
RB1956, 10144
ibid.
RB1909, 7908, 28; RB1904, 7844, 22; BWB DRP72, 1931
AOB vol.1, 53B; AOB vol.3, 355
ibid.
see Boyd, 'Australia's Home' (Penguin 1968 edit), p.72