

**HUNTER HOUSE, NOW GREYSTANES
HOUSE
57 QUEEN STREET**

SURVEY DATE: 1991-2

STUDY GRADING: B*

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1882

FIRST OWNER : HUNTER, ROBERT & WILLIAM



CITATION:

History

'The Hunter family made a fortune from the Garden Gully line of reef. William Hunter returned to Ireland for ten years and during his absence Robert had this large villa built. Following William's return in 1883, they bought the

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Burnewang Park Estate at Elmore, where Robert resided. William lived at 'Hunter House' for the rest of his life. The house originally had a verandah and balcony with cast-iron decoration. It was removed and the present 'Georgian' portico erected in 1942 (by the Hyett family)¹.

For many years the Country Roads Board (Road Construction Authority) have been the occupants².

Landscape

Derived from at least two major periods, the front garden has mature specimens such as a pomegranate, 'Brachychiton sp.', elms, palms, copper beech, 'Cedrus atlantica glauca' and a 'Magnolia grandiflora'-most from the early garden.

The 1940s sections include stone pond, silver birch, golden ash near the entry, large lemon scented gum, var. New Zealand flax, and 'Acer sp.'.

The new picket fence is partly related to the house period. William Hunter arrived at the goldfields from Ireland in the c1860 and, with his brother Joseph's aid, he invested in the rich 'Garden Gull Reef'³. In 1882, William married in Ireland and returned to the house Robert had built⁴.

With the aid of local builder, Thomas Strode, Hunter added an east wing (with the mansard roof bay) in 1893 for his growing family, bringing the house size to 25 rooms⁵. William Hunter died in 1914, second only to Lansell in the scale of his mining investment⁶.

1 Butcher & Gregson, p.115 date c1943
2 Butcher & Flanders p.54; Butcher & Gregson, p.115 1958 purchase
3 Butcher & Gregson, p.113f
4 ibid. cites 'Bendigo Advertiser' description 1882
5 ibid.
6 ibid.