

PLACE NAME "Brooklyn" (former "Hendra") LEVEL: B
 ADDRESS 132 Aphrasia Street
 AREA - DATE/PERSON 21.5/RP NEG:5.7, 5.8



DATES Construction: 1891-92

USE Present Use: Special Accommodation House
 Original Use: House
 Alterations?: Escape stair & ramp; underpinning; addition on west side of building

FORM Detached
 Double storey
 Triple fronted

STYLE Late Classical

DESCRIPTION (I = Intact A = Altered * = significant)

ROOF I Slate
 WALLS I Brick, bichromatic
 ROOF FORM I Chimneys

VERANDAH * Form
 ** Decoration

FENESTRATION A Doors
 A Windows

FINISHES Unpainted, brickwork

INTERIOR

GARDEN & SETTING Garden form, (recent)
 Fences & gates, (recent)

OTHER COMMENTS

CONDITION & INTEGRITY Condition: Good
 Integrity: Altered.

THREATS Alteration

DESCRIPTION

A plain, bichromatic brick, double-storey house. It is Aesthetic Movement influenced, with Edwardian elements. The main roof is slate, of half-hips with terracotta fern frond finials. The gables decorated with a rising-sun motif embossed in render. It is triple-fronted, the east (side) wing has a full height canted bay with a hip-roof. The north (rear) has a gable in the form of a dentillated pediment rendered with the date (1891) and palm frond embossed. The eaves are also dentillated. There is a double-storey verandah around the angle. The first floor level has a decorative fretwork valence with turned posts. The ground level has a deep valence screen with a star pattern fretwork. All is on a bluestone base. There is a round-head window over stair.

HISTORY

Built for Alfred David Price, grocer and Newtown councillor,¹⁵ it was described in that year as a two storey brick house of eleven rooms with five outhouses and stables, with a valuation of 100 pounds.¹⁶ The year before Price was rated for fenced land 216 x 285 feet, which stood between two blocks of vacant land in Aphrasia Street, owned by Lloyd Hooper, founder of the Hooper grocer stores.¹⁷ Further along on the north west corner of Aphrasia Street and West Melbourne Road (now Shannon Avenue), stood the notable Jeffrey's Fernery Hotel.¹⁸ A description of "Hendra", as the house became known, during the Turner occupancy was given in a 1950s account by Jean Moreton, who spent her childhood in the area. Jean Dobie, as she was called then, stayed at "Newtown Brae" nearby, built by her grandfather, James Alexander. Jean's father had associations with the Albion Woollen Mills on the Barwon. She describes "Hendra" in these words:

The other side of the street (i.e. Stephen Street) was most exciting. The big two storey red brick house that now stands at the top of Aphrasia Street had a gate into Stephen Street; in it lived Monica Turner, a dear little dumpy girl who was our constant playmate. The rest of the south side was occupied by John the Chinaman..... His garden went right down to West Melbourne Road (now Shannon Avenue).¹⁹

A map included with Moreton's article shows the location of these buildings as well as Walker's omnibus stables on the south west corner of Aphrasia Street and West Melbourne Road (Shannon Avenue). These stables survive. As well, there are photographs of "Newtown Brae", "Hendra" and Walker's famous omnibus about to leave the Fernery Hotel.²⁰

By 1911, when Price's house was known still as "Hendra", a new owner/occupier, James Maddern, farmer, was listed. The property was described still as a brick dwelling of eleven rooms and stabling, NAV 80 pounds.²¹

15. Newtown rate book 1892-93, West Ward No. 1557.

16. Ibid.

17. Ibid., 1891-92, Nos. 1538, 1539, 1540.

18. See map of area in Jean Moreton, Life at Newtown Brae, in the Investigator, 1 March, 1987, p.16.

19. Moreton, p.15.

20. Ibid, pp.17-18.

21. Newtown rate book 1911-12, No. 1752.

After the First World War a new owner/occupier, William Munday, tanner, was listed, at least from 1919-20 until 1935.

²² According to Moreton, "Hendra" was known as "Butler House" when it became part of St. Joseph's College. However, by the 1980s it was known as "Brooklyn House"²³ and is used currently as a special accommodation house.

SIGNIFICANCE

Although a relatively plain design for a large house in 1891, "Hendra" is regionally significant for its clear Aesthetic Movement influenced details, such as: the rising sun, stars and palm fronds. Hendra is historically regionally significant as an example of the Edwardian residences constructed on elevated sites for Newtown's affluent citizens, mainly professional and businessmen., the former "Hendra" was built for Alfred David Price, a local grocer. It had associations in the post World War I period with a local tanner, William Munday, and later, as Butler House, formed part of St. Joseph's College.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Existing Listings NONE

Recommend'ns RNE LPS
 Place

22. Ibid, 1917-18, No. 1906; 1935 No. 2416.

23. Moreton, p.17.