

PLACE NAME "Kilross" LEVEL: B
 ADDRESS 40 Buckland Avenue
 AREA 2 DATE/PERSON 23.4/RP NEG: 2.3



DATES Construction: c1891
 USE Present Use: Residential
 Original Use: House
 Alterations?: Fence replaced

FORM

Detached
 Single storey

STYLE

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

ROOF

I Slate

WALLS

I Timber

ROOF FORM

* Decoration
 * Chimneys
 * Eaves Decoration

VERANDAH

* Form

FENESTRATION

* Doors & fly wire screen
 I Windows Leadlight

FINISHES

* Paint colours

INTERIOR

GARDEN & SETTING

Fences & gates (recent)
 I Outbuildings: garage

OTHER COMMENTS

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

Condition: Excellent
 Integrity: Intact

THREATS

DESCRIPTION

An eclectic, elaborate and intact, double-fronted, hip-roofed, timber late Italianate house. The left-hand bay is set forward as a hip with a hip-roof expressed canted bay. This has segmented head windows supported by Corinthian collonettes. There are pairs of Italianate brackets, rosettes and panels to the cornice frieze. The entrance has a four-panelled door, side and fan-lights and a flyscreen door with an embossed copper nameplate. The verandah in the angle, has a gable over the entry with inset wheel decoration with turned spindles to this and the valence. There are fretwork brackets and Doric timber posts. The slate roof has wrought iron finials and fine chimneys decorated with vermiculated panels, dentils and mouldings. There are various skillion extensions and a 1920s garage. The fence is recent.

HISTORY

John William Taylor, the first owner/occupier of "Kilross" at 40 Buckland Avenue in 1891⁶², was typical of a number of local builders and architects who chose elevated sites in Newtown for their own residences in the 1890s and early 1900s. These men played an important role in the design and construction of the many new houses erected in Newtown following the subdivisions of the 1880s, 1890s and early 1900s.

In 1890 John William and Henry A. Taylor purchased Lots 68 and 69 in the Buckland Paddock Estate⁶³. Advertised as providing fine streets, beautifully planted with trees, with gas and water laid on and two bus services, the first lots in this estate were sold in August 1888⁶⁴. In the year after his purchase of land J. W. Taylor was recorded as the owner/occupier of an unfinished wooden cottage, NAV twenty pounds⁶⁵. The following year, John William Taylor, builder, was rated 42 pounds for his wooden cottage of seven rooms in Buckland Avenue⁶⁶. By 1895 the house was listed as a wooden cottage of eight rooms, NAV 35 pounds⁶⁷. A few years later, when Taylor's address was given in Gheringhap Street, Geelong, he was owner still of the Buckland Avenue house, now identified as "Kilross", which he let to a succession of tenants. Between 1901 and 1904 the tenant was George Robert Lamble, teacher⁶⁸. Michael Patrick Neagle, railway guard, was there in 1917⁶⁹ and Arnold Berryman Bullock, postal officer, in 1919⁷⁰.

By the 1920s, Taylor was no longer associated with the property. In 1923 "Kilross" was purchased by Agnes Hocking, wife of Percival R. Hocking, clerk, for 1150 pounds⁷¹.

62. Newtown rate book North Ward 1891-92 No 151.

63. Ibid 1890-91 Nos 130, 131.

64. Gladys Seaton, Model Borough, City of Newtown, 1983, p. 28.

65. Newtown rate book 1891-92 No 151.

66. Ibid 1892-93 No 150.

67. Ibid 1895-96 No 154.

68. Ibid 1901-2 No 161; 1904-5 No 164.

69. Ibid 1917-18 No 187.

70. Ibid 1919-20 No 195.

71. Ibid 1923 No 196.

SIGNIFICANCE

"Kilross" is architecturally significant at regional level as a particularly eclectic and elaborate late Italianate house design. Built in 1891, Kilross exemplifies the virtuosity of a builder/designer displaying an extraordinary number of the decorative devices plucked from the Italianate spectrum at the height of the property boom. It remains particularly intact. "Kilross" has regional historical significance for its associations with J. W. Taylor, a member of the building trade which played a major role in the construction of many of Newtown houses following early subdivisions. Like a number of other architects and builders, Taylor chose an elevated site for his own residence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Existing Listings NONE

Recommend'ns RNE LPS
 Area 2
 Place
