

PLACE NAME: 'SARNIA' (Formerly 'Gable House')  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: CITY OF NEWTOWN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (References)

STYLE OR PERIOD: Picturesque Victorian Gothic Revival

ARCHITECT(S)/DESIGN ORIGIN: John Matthews  
Reference: National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File 3788

BUILDER: John Matthews  
Reference: National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File 3788

PRINCIPAL ARTISANS/ARTISTS/TRADES  
Reference:

TENDER NOTICE:  
Reference:

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION: c 1854  
Reference: Geelong Historical Society

ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE

SUBSEQUENT WORKS/ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

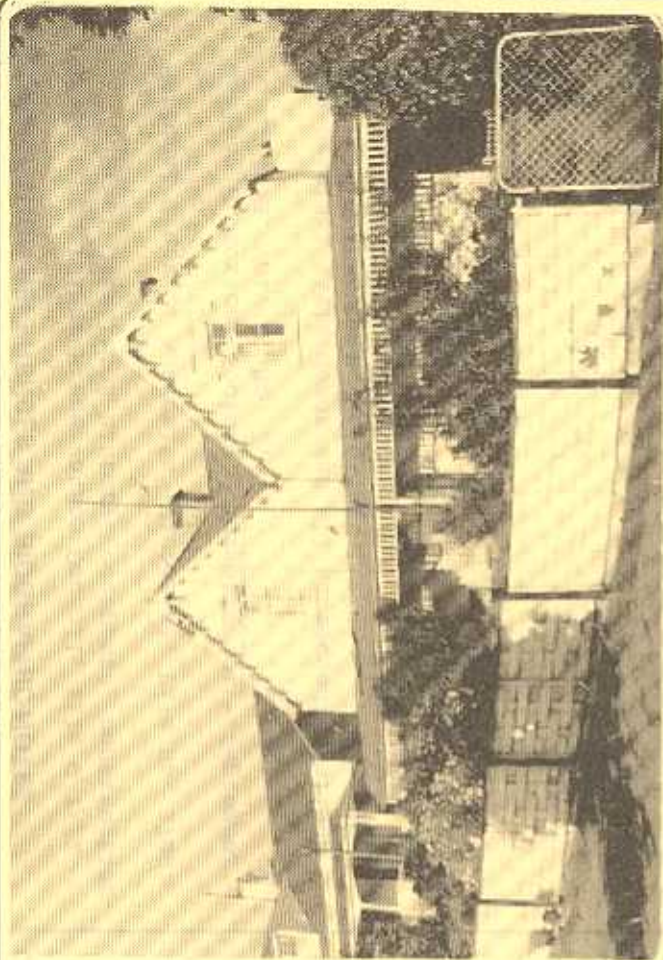
A bullnose verandah has been added to the front facade. The interiors have been modified ie. the fire-place has been removed from No. 268.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S)/OCCUPANT(S): John Matthews, who was trained as an architect.

SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/OCCUPANTS

1870's occupied by Joseph Hobday, musician.  
Rev. J. Sinclair during construction of the Gaelic Church

OTHER NOTES: Present name derived from the Guernsey birthplace of the late Mr. F.C. De Garis (born 1851) two of whose daughters lived there up till c 1860



NEGATIVE FILE:

Australian Heritage Commission Register of National Estate  
 Historic Buildings Preservation Council Register No. ....  
File No. ....

National Trust of Aust. (Vic) Classified File No. 3788  
 Geelong Regional Commission Register No. ....

IDENTIFICATION DATA

PLACE NAME: 'Sarnia' (Formerly 'Gable House')  
ADDRESS: 266-268 La Trobe Terrace, Newtown, 3220

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: City of Newtown  
TITLE INFORMATION

MAP REFERENCE

PRESENT USE: Residences  
PRESENT OWNER/LESSEE: J.R. Gay,  
ADDRESS: 2/1 Kardella St., East Malvern.

TELEPHONE: (052)

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF NEWTOWN

**DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES AND BIOGRAPHIC NOTES**

Historic Buildings Preservation Council, File G/2/22  
Brief details of history, occupants, construction.

National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 3788.  
Geelong Historical Society. Investigator - September  
1973, Vol. 8, No. 3.

The original title deeds and all subsequent dealings  
are held by Mrs. E.B. Coldicutt.

**CITATION**

'Sarnia' a pair of two storey brick houses, built c 1854 originally known as 'Gable House', was renamed by 20th century residents, Mary and Lucas De Garis, after the Guernsey Island birthplace of their father E.C. De Garis, a pioneer of the dried fruits industry in Sunraysia. The pair are interesting examples of the picturesque gothic villa mode, and if substantiated, a notable work of trained architect John Matthews. The original patent iron tile roof is a relatively rare surviving example of this 1850's roof cladding.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE**

- Its creative and/or technical accomplishment.
- Its demonstration of a way of life, custom, process or function no longer practised, in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest.
- Its strong association with an important figure or figures, development, or cultural phase.
- Its townscape and/or landscape value.
- Its scarcity value.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

- LOCAL  REGIONAL  STATE  NATIONAL  WORLD

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT  GOOD  FAIR  DETERIORATED  RUINS

**INTEGRITY**

- HIGH  LOW  ALTERED  DAMAGED

**RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES**

Geelong Regional Commission Register

DOCUMENTATION - Allan Willingham, Architect, 151 McKean St.,  
North Fitzroy. 3068. Tel: 03 489 8492.

SIGNATURE ..... DATE .....