

DESCRIPTION

A timber, eclectic, early Edwardian house, with gables facing each street and a minor gable on the diagonal axis. The skillion verandah turns, the corner on the angle. Slate roof, with rare slate ridge decoration. Spouting and timber moulding are both ogee. The timbered rail upper gables are supported on decorative fretwork brackets. The verandah has deeply turned posts as triples, with fretwork brackets. There are window pairs with upper lights and terracotta pots on chimneys.

HISTORY

Thomasina Rutherford's "Ky-e-Lah" most probably dates from 1896 when it was described in the Newtown rate book as a wooden cottage of nine rooms with scullery and stables, NAV 55 pounds²⁷⁷. The valuation remained the same for almost twenty years although from 1899, when it was occupied by Henry Bannister, it was described as a wooden cottage of 12 rooms and outbuildings²⁷⁸. Thomasina was owner/occupier again between 1903 and 1915, the name "Ky-e-Lah" first appearing in the 1909-10 Newtown rate book²⁷⁹. The property was let again in 1917 to Benjamin Ford, grazier²⁸⁰, and in 1922 to Nancy L. Clarke. In that year the owner was listed as Miss Rutherford, Hollybarton, Sandringham²⁸¹.

A new owner, Tom Bailey Hawkes, manufacturer, was recorded in 1923 and was there still in 1938²⁸². During his ownership the valuation increased from 85 pounds in 1923, to 92 pounds in 1925, 115 pounds in 1930 and 130 pounds in 1938²⁸³, which may indicate some alterations and/or additions. Tom Hawkes most probably had associations with Hawkes Bros, a firm of Geelong iron merchants founded in the 1850s. A Tom Hawkes was proprietor in the 1890s, when the firm serviced the Geelong and Wimmera districts importing goods from Great Britain, America and Germany²⁸⁴.

SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1896 for Thomasina Rutherford, this house has regional historical significance as an example of the fine late Victorian houses constructed in Newtown for affluent owners, and for its associations during the 1920s and 1930s with Tom Bailey Hawkes, manufacturer and proprietor of Hawke Bros., a firm of Geelong iron merchants founded in the 1850s which serviced the Geelong and Wimmera districts. It is regionally architecturally significant as an eclectic early Edwardian house. Particularly significant is the rare ridge slate decoration.

277. Newtown rate book 1896-97 No 1539.

278. Ibid 1899-1900 No 1533.

279. Ibid 1903-4 No 1530; 1909-10 No 1654; 1915-16 No 1827.

280. Ibid 1917-18 No 1847.

281. Ibid 1922 No 1864.

282. Ibid 1923 No 2079; 1938 No 2317.

283. Ibid.

284. The Book of Geelong, compiled by Edward A. Vidler, Henry Franks & Co., Geelong, 1897, pp.58-62.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Existing Listings NONE

Recommend'ns RNE LPS
 Area 8
 Place
