Frederick B. Menkens
Architect

The Life and Work of

Architect
a simple theme based on original research
ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWCASTLE

Prize-winning design by
Frederick B. Menkens.
Architect 1889.
THE WORK OF

Frederick B. Menkens.


Architecture Diploma Thesis

L. Reedman Stage V 1956.
Newcastle College, New South Wales University of Technology
There would be little purpose in researching into the work of just any architect of this period. Some were bricklayers who suddenly found that they possessed the ability to draw plans and promptly changed trowel for tee square. Others took advantage of the rapid Building development and were content in piling bricks and windows into jumble.

But there were some who had in their youth a thorough study of the profession and in practice were more genuine.

One of these was Frederick Burnhardt Menkens, who worked in Newcastle from 1882 to 1908 and proved by his buildings that he understood and used with discretion the techniques of his day.

It is not intended to prove or disprove the worth of his character but rather to trace his movements and appreciate his buildings, establishing them together in one record.
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Acknowledgments

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Mr Leo Butler, journalist of the Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners Advocate, who arranged for me to use the Newspaper's library to consult the papers of the period.

Mr Morton Herman, lecturer and supervisor for this thesis, who gave me the benefit of his extensive knowledge of the history of early Australian architecture.

My father A. J. Reedman who helped with the photography, particularly the copies of the drawings.

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It must have been a year ago when curiosity prompted inquiries about Frederick Menkens. It has been established that he served a term in prison, refusing on principle to pay a small debt. As for the details none are quite sure, but yarns sketching a rather strong personality are always forthcoming.

It was told that Menkens having learnt the trade of bricklayer, would often walk onto his jobs and becoming annoyed at some brickwork would fling off his silk top hat and alpaca coat, snatch the trowel from the bewildered bricklayer and proceed to show him exactly how to lay the bricks, making clear the finer points of the art of bricklaying at the same time.

Another is that builders would plead with him not to mount the scaffolding. They pointed out that it was not proper that a gentleman of his immaculate character should climb over the rough scaffold and expose himself to danger. Suspecting something Menkens, would promptly demand a ladder and scale it two rungs at a time to the amazement (and probably amusement) of the workmen. But it is easy for stories to gather and dominate the true character, his background and work receiving little consideration.

Few now remember him clearly, but old craftsmen among them are only too eager to point out his worth as an architect, back in those days of the flourishing cast iron trade.

At his passing in 1910 it was mentioned that although combative when
roused, Mr. Menkens was essentially a peaceful man and in his work the good workman; the good and honest contractor was held by him in honour, but let a man under him once do bad work and his fate was sealed. He used to say that "above all complete confidence in my workers is my only hope of good work," and who can blame him, for this was and is the key to good building.

Frederick Burnhardt Menkens was born in 1855 at Oldenburg, a small city on the sandy plains of North West Germany. The townspeople could boast that when it was once the capital of the arch duchy of Oldenburg it bustled with nobles of high Prussian order. The peasants could maintain that they were mainly of Saxon stock and others that they were descendants of the ancient Frisian tribes who through time have treasured their sturdiness and independance. Mr. Frederick Menkens came of ancient stock in which professional instincts were hereditary and at an early age decided on the profession of architect and surveyor, receiving his first educational grounding at his own home.

Starting at the age of thirteen he worked for five years at the different branches of the building trade during the summer months, and in that way became a practical bricklayer, stonemason, carpenter, plumber, painter and clerk of works. In winter he attended the large building academies of Nienburg and Holzminden, where he studied the theoretical and 'artistic' parts of the profession. He had then, right from the start, a knowledge of craft which together with his inherent German thoroughness, was his advantage.

At the end of the five years practical training he entered the Royal Polytechnicum at Hanover where the highest branches of architecture were taught and at the end of four years received his diploma. Surely in this time many long hours were spent in tedious study of ornament and painstaking rendering of heavily decorated buildings, for in this highly developed Renaissance period draftsmanship counted.

His training was not to end with his diploma. For six months he travelled with a party of students under the tutelage of a leading professor and made a study and collected sketches of architectural
monuments in Germany, France, Holland, Belgium and Milan (Italy) and finally crossed to England to add to his knowledge.2

At the time prospects in Germany were not good, in England distinctly bad. With the threat of war, Europe was becoming a great armed camp with all energies being devoted to the piling of arms. Australia was mentioned to him by a chance acquaintance.1

Menkens arrived in Adelaide in 1878 with a splendid knowledge of his profession, only a book knowledge of English and with little in his purse. He worked in the Colonial Architect's Office for a short time but not liking Adelaide he moved over to Melbourne.

Melbourne was then suffering from the great parliamentary upheaval produced by Sir Graham Barry's fight against the Victorian Upper House, and all trade was at a standstill. Mr. Menkens could not get work anywhere, so he shouldered his swag and went off up country, taking any job that offered. In this way he worked at Sandhurst and Echuca and other towns, at the various trades he had learnt, all the time making it his primary business to become proficient in English. He made a short tour through Tasmania and then after some work with Mr. Pitt in Melbourne came to Sydney in the eighties. There he entered Mr. Mansfield's Office and worked for a couple of years when he started in practice for himself in Maitland.4

At about the year 1882 he settled in Newcastle and commenced practice.2 Nothing has been traced so far to tell us these early days but most likely he was content to wait for work and do the best he could on any small job that offered.

His name first appears in the Newcastle Morning Herald of April 19, 1884, among the trade advertisements. Another architect advertising directly above has 'Folios of designs always open for inspection' but Menkens says he has had

"considerable continental and eight years experience in Australian Colonies. Diploma as an architect from the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences, Hanover. Author of several prize designs of Prominent Public Buildings."
His professional references included names important in the district.
Clarence Hannel, J.P., Newcastle.
C.W. Morgan., M.D., J.P., Newcastle.
John Lee
West Maitland.
Dr. Pierce.
"Plans, specifications and estimates provided on the shortest notice
and all practical works superintended personally.
Business conducted throughout the northern district and all communications
will receive the most prompt attention."

His name then appears in subsequent papers under the small daily
business Directory and to keep this up for several months must have
meant that his business was beginning to be established.
Later in July he carried out alterations and additions to Empire
House, Wallsend, then a hotel, once a store and now a dilapidated
theatre. This must have been typical of the uninteresting jobs he
had to work on in order to build up contacts.
His first important works were for the School of Arts, Newcastle.
He was engaged to prepare sketch plans for extensions to their existing
premises. A remarkable pen and ink drawing was prepared (see page 5)
Sketch Plan of Proposed Additions to School of Arts, Newcastle

First scheme, note the infinite care in the drafting. Menkens 26/7/22
and shows on the front elevation fine drafting of ornament when one considers that the original scale was 1/16 inch to 1 foot. Even great care has been taken to record the elevation of the existing building which was erected only fourteen years earlier and incidently appears to have had no influence on the new scheme.

The scheme shown as 'Part Extention' was carried out in February, 1885, the elevation being modified to a simpler treatment (see P7). The set of drawings is an extremely clear instruction, drawn on Whatmans 1883 with fine ink lines and appropriate water colours. Of particular note is the rendering of the elevation showing accurately every detail of ornament required. These were the work of an expert draftsman who would have had many years experience in order to attend to these details. It would seem to be the work of Menkens himself. The Builder was J.R. Rodgers who later became a prominent builder and alderman in Newcastle.

Later a second scheme by Menkens (see P9) incorporated the existing building and provided additionally for a Technical College, but this did not proceed. It was not until 1903 that two more shop units exactly similar to those of 1885 were added, the supervising architect being Ernest George Yeomans, who was one of Menkens' prime rivals.
of r Scott and Wolfe Streets, Newcastle

two right hand shops Menkens 1885
left two by Yeomans 1903.
Additions of two shops to School of Arts, Newcastle. Menkens 1885.
Plan of Alterations and Additions to
School of Arts
Newcastle

Ground Plan

First Floor Plan

Scale of an inch to a foot

Hunter Street

Menkens architect 1885.
A master scheme by Menkens utilizing existing School of Arts premises. (not built)
Round headed entrance door
Keightley Residence
The Terrace, Newcastle.

The W.C. had not yet been positioned inside in domestic buildings.
In 1885 Stewart Keightley, Manager of the Newcastle Coal Company, built his new 'Villa' Residence engaging Menkens for the work. This could only have been to Menken's advantage for his client was a popular and important citizen, having once been Mayor. There are two details of interest in this building. The semicircular fanlighted entrance door which was not usual for Menkens and his first use of cavity walling built to the south and east because of the building's extreme exposure to the bleak coastal southerlies. Its appearance is sturdy and shows evidence of freshness in its design. Even the fence details have been reduced to a happy simplicity.

His next building was a golden opportunity and it allowed him to establish his practice firmly. The site was in the busy thoroughfare in the expanding West end of the city and the building, a terrace of shops and dwelling houses later known as the City Emporium (See P12). It was built for Henry Stegga, a progressive clothing retailer who had purchased the valuable building block in 1886. The units of the facade are generously proportioned and simply treated with the centre designed as an ornamental climax, the details being typical of Menkens early period. It is almost an awkward composition but retains strict regimental order and thoroughness.
The Thoroughfare,
Hunter Street West,
Newcastle.

Detail

Climax
STEGGA'S BUILDINGS
Hunter Street, Newcastle West.

Menkens architect 1886.
Plan of Shops and Dwellings for Harry Stecca Esq.
Newcastle

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Ground Plan

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First Floor Plan

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Scale: 8" = 100' Feet.

Menkens architect 1886.
Plan of Store

For

H. A. Smith Esq.

Front Elevation

Section A.B

Section C.D

Ground Plan

Scale: 1/4" = 1 foot

Menkens architect 1886.
Later in 1886 Menkens designed a small shop and store in Scott Street. Surprisingly it is unassuming and has minimum decoration, possibly the client pleaded with the architect to keep it plain and simple. If this was the case Mr. Smith would have been the ideal client for a modern architect. Menkens must have had little conscience to allow that small doorway on the left of the facade to upset balance or else he had convinced himself that "form followed function" (See P14). Today the small hooded hoisting pulley is rusted, an awning is thrust out over a fish shop and generally the facade receives its share of smoke and soot from railway and shipping.

This year also saw the erection of his design for the Deaf and Dumb Institute, Waratah (See P16) on which he literally drapes a band of yellow brickwork over the gables, forming a contrast to the plain soft pink brick walls and stone plinth. In recent years central additions were made but has little effect on the dominance of the two machicolated gable fronts.

*the Institute, Waratah today with central additions.*

*Shop for H.A. Smith*
HUNTER STREET, NEWCASTLE.

Hats, horses and gaslights around 1887. from "Pictorial History of N.S.W." 1888
In 1888 the Hamilton Mechanics Institute after accumulating the sum of £700 by rigid economy, finally decided to erect substantial premises, Menkens having been consulted about the scheme a few years previously.

They had purchased the site from the Australian Agricultural Company in 1861 for the sum of £26 and the original wooden structure was erected the following year by voluntary labour. The old building has been recorded by Menkens with the new, and indicates the progress of the Mechanics Institute movement (see P19).

At the laying of the foundation stone, Menkens made a short speech of presentation to Mr. J. Fletcher, M.L.A., and handed him the mallet and trowel amid loud applause - the three cheers being for Mr. Fletcher. The band then played "Conquering Hero Comes" after which Mr. Fletcher made his speech, complaining that - "When it was first proposed to erect Mechanics Institutes there was a large number of well meaning conscientious people who had had the hardihood to proclaim that the working classes were being overeducated; that these institutions would create a danger to the state and uproot the foundations of society. They would become hotbeds of infidelity and haunts of revolutionary demagogues. But what a change had come over the scene."

He reminded them that "some of the cleverest and best men in the old country had had their training in Mechanics Institutes and most of the intellectual advancement of the last 36 years since he had left England was owing to the institutes' existence." There were three cheers and the band played "He's a jolly good fellow."

The chairman then spoke in high praise of the architect and said that if they "had only been able to have given greater scope to Mr. Menkens, he and they would have been better pleased. As it was Mr. Menkens deserved well of a public who wished to see worthy buildings being erected for institutes of this kind." 9

The committee must have had an active interest in the design, for the chairman further explained that "A few years ago they had invited Mr. Menkens to prepare a design which they had since looked over again and greatly amended. The building they saw that day partly in course of erection was their work." Menkens reaction can only be imagined.

But the building apparently did not suffer to any great extent at the hands of the interferers. Even if the architect was inundated with
First stage, a new generation of building.

1888
Second stage with the old building demolished.
requests and dictations, the design still shows signs of co-ordination and simplicity. The building was designed to allow for additions, which took place three years later, the whole project forming a unity.

The street elevations are quite balanced and are designed and drawn with care, the windows being placed one above the other (See P20). But it is noticed that on an elevation of little importance, the side, windows are balanced within the room thus having little co-ordination on the external face. This neglect of the unimportant elevations is apparent in much work of this period.

The building was offhandedly described as being designed in the Italian Renaissance Style and presenting a very handsome appearance, had strong stone foundations, (which have fractured badly in recent years) and it seems in this period that the strength and solidity of foundations (correctly footings) was always a point of public interest.

To-day the building is known as Anzac House and is used probably more than ever before. In 1952 it was purchased by the Returned Soldiers' League who converted it from dancing and ballet studios into club premises, the verandahs being removed and built up in solid. During these alterations a bottle containing documents dated 1888 was found, the discovery reaching print in the Newcastle Sun. In 1955 alterations and additions were again carried out. The hall was extended and has become a popular Friday night dance floor often running competitions for the jitterbug. The upper floor was enlarged to allow for the thriving R.S.L. club activities the development of which has been rapid not only here but throughout the nation in recent years.

Now known as Anzac House
C/R Tudor and Milton Streets
Hamilton.

Keystone decoration
Rear today with additions.
Old Papers In Bottle: Find At Hamilton

In a bottle discovered behind the foundation stone of the old Hamilton Mechanics’ Institute, now known as Hamilton Anzac House, have been found well-preserved papers dated 1888 describing the foundation function.

The find was made during extensive alterations now being carried out.

The documents in the bottle read:

“Be it thus recorded that on Saturday the 24th day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty eight being the fifty-first year of the reign of her most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria and the Centennial year of the colony of New South Wales, this memorial stone of the new buildings in connection with the Mechanics’ Institute at Hamilton, in the county of Northumberland, in the colony of New South Wales aforesaid, was placed by James Fletcher Esquire, Member of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales for the Electoral District of Newcastle, aforesaid, Charles Robert Baron Carrington, Member of Her Majesty’s most Honorable Privy Council being Governor of the said colony and its dependencies, Sir Alfred Stephen being Lieutenant Governor, Sir Frederick Darley Q.C. being Chief Justice of the said colony, Sir Henry Parker, G.C.M.G. being Premier of the said colony, the Honorable James Ingils M.L.A. being Minister for Public Instruction in the said colony; James Coles Ellis Esquire and James Fletcher Esquire aforesaid being members of the Legislative Assembly for the said electoral district of Newcastle, and Robert Baker Esquire being the Mayor of the Municipal District of Hamilton.”

The Municipal Council of Hamilton for this the said year consisted of Aldermen Robert Baker, Mayor aforesaid; Irvine Keddie, Samuel Donn, John Williams, Francis Williams, Charles G. Melville, William Atchison, David Lloyd, and John Arkins Esquires. As is hereon inscribed Edward C. Merewether Esquire, formerly General Superintendent of the Australian Agricultural Company, was president of this institution and had been so since its active inauguration in 1873; James J. Callaghan Esquire, principal of the Public School of the town of Hamilton aforesaid, William H. Britton Esquire and Charles E. Broome Esquire, being respectively Vice President, Treasurer and Honorary Secretary of this the Hamilton Mechanics Institute. The Trustees of this institution were George McKean Esquire, David Murray Esquire, J.P., Alan Wilde Esquire, James Ray Esquire, William H. Britton Esquire, and Edward Francis Esquire, the first-mentioned three having been trustees from the first inauguration of the institution.

Committeemen

“Messieurs James Ray, George McKean, David Lloyd, Reverend Alfred C. Hirst, William H. Gibson, William C. Nesbitt, Henry Cox, Samuel Kinder, James Swain, Alfred Ingwell, Alfred S. King and David Melville formed the committee of management for the current half year, the last-mentioned five comprising the building committee. The design, plans, etcetera for the structure were drawn by Frederick E. Menkens Esquire, of Newcastle, architect, and the works are being carried out under his personal supervision, the contractor being George Lane Esquire of Newcastle and the contract price one thousand two hundred and fifty pounds (£1250).

£26 Purchase

“The site of this building was purchased in the year 1861 from the Australian Agricultural Company for the sum of £26 sterling and the original wooden structure was erected in the succeeding year by voluntary contributions from the then inhabitants.

“After being used as an assembly hall for a decade, in the year 1872 the original intention of the promoter was carried into effect by establishing the present society under the name of the Hamilton Mechanics Institute. After a fluctuating existence the Committee of Management was by rigid economy accumulated the sum of £700 and the Institution possesses a library of 300 volumes.

“Signed T. J. Callaghan, Vice President; C. E. Broome, Honorary Secretary. 24/3/88.”

The Newcastle Sun, Thur., Feb. 12, 1953
Hamilton Mechanics Institute construction is thoroughly considered, Menkens delt. 1888
The centenary of the Colony of New South Wales had arrived and with it was published Morrison's 'Centennial History,' with all the past and present of important places and personalities.

Menkens was recorded among the names of the Newcastle citizens. Surely this was an achievement for one who had been only five years resident in Newcastle but we cannot dismiss the possibility that personalities were included by their own subscription, although remarks about him would make this seem unlikely. It was stated that in his practice "He had been successful and had gained more than his share of public support." 2

He was now 33 years of age and landed a job with which any architect would have considered himself to have reached success. It was a large bond store for Messrs. Earp, Gillam and Company, who were general merchants, colonial shipping and insurance agents with interests in collieries. 10

Dutchmen came to the fore on this work. The Earps were of Dutch origin, the company was agent for Royal Dutch Paching Company and the builder was John Straub, another Dutchman. Menkens apparently inclined to differ by being born only forty miles from Dutch soil. 1

The store was conveniently situated in the Kings Wharf area with a railway along the northern side, and handy to the Customs House. Provision was made for normal Company Stores which took two thirds of the space and the other one third being reserved for goods awaiting customs clearance. Ample provision for hoisting is made with a manual lift in the centre of the building and, as the section indicates, gantry, apparatus for lifting at the side of the building where the goods would be hoisted up to the required floor until the platform flap had been passed and let down again. The goods were then lowered and were more manageable. (See P26).

Of particular note is the use of a variety of materials on the elevation, probably to relieve monotony (See P26). The engaged piers and cornice are of double-pressed yellow bricks, the panels containing the windows are plaster and the remaining recesses, red brick. It is observed that not many buildings of this period had incorporated in their design any great variety of durable colour. It could well mean that this was an original attempt by Menkens to use something fresh. In any case his work shows that he was not conservative.
Keystone decoration
(probably a Dutch princess)
Plaster capital still clinging to the brickwork

from Stevenson Place

progression

EARP. GILLAM &CO. BOND STORE
The parapet and pediment were destroyed by fire.

note the solution to vertical circulation

Menkens architect
J. Straub builder 1888
variation in colour relieves monotony

1888.
variation in colour relieves monotony
northern face
two years old

Newcastle. 1890.
To-day it is in a neglected state with most of the built-in ironwork expanding with rust in the salty atmosphere. Archbars are forcing large cracks at window heads and 'keystone' decorations are being split or have been 'blown off' with the rusting of their concealed wire fixings.

Probably if Menkens were alive he would fume at the mere mention of built-in ironwork, for this is the one failure that will ultimately persuade the owners to demolish it.

In spite of the evidence of this and many another building some architects still use the old 'angle iron' in similar localities, as a cheap and convenient means of spanning an opening which is efficient for only 15 years.
The year 1889 must have been memorable for Menkens for he saw the erection of his two large churches, the prize winning St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, and the Baptist Tabernacle, Newcastle.

The congregation of St. Andrew's in 1886 agreed to sell as much of their property in east Newcastle as would enable them to purchase a site and erect a new church in a more central position. Accordingly in 1886 a site at the corner of Laman and Auckland Streets, was purchased from the A.A. Co., and with great wisdom competitive designs were invited for the new church.1

We know that Menkens was chosen as the winning architect but we do not know the conditions of competition or whether the two drawings shown here were of the prize set (See p31&2). They are both superb fine ink line and coloured drawings. The long section shows absolute sureness of construction. He was so sure that the stone spire would survive the first gale, that he has made an alteration to the drawing reducing the thickness of stones forming the shell by four inches.

It is generally believed that Menkens, eyeing the corner of the partly constructed tower proclaimed to the builder that the whole thing was out of plumb. The angry builder held out the 'plumbob' with instructions to "plumb it yourself." Menkens was eager to prove his point so be climbed to the top of the brickwork and proceeded to plumb with an expert eye. However it was plumb.

Although the building is designed in the '15 th. Century Gothic' manner, it is not a direct copy of the style. It has been given freshness with enough feeling of arrangement of masses with the details to fit the site.

The thick walling is built entirely of yellow patent pressed bricks while the window mullions, buttress weatherings, base courses, copings, turrets and spire are of Pyrmont freestone.2

At the foundation function, the Moderator, Rev. Dr. Gilchrist, said "The city was growing and the old church had become too small. It was right to build handsome churches and in America the sacred edifices were really magnificent. The day of barnlike uncomfortable buildings had gone by, and although it was not a characteristic feature of the Presbyterian Church to pander to the popular taste, yet they were not behind in looking after the comfort of their people."2
from Civic Park

corbel stone at entrance
St. Andrew's New Presbyterian Church for Newcastle

This view of the church is in the agreement made herein between Robert McKenzie, Contractor to the said Newcastle, the Parish of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, for the sum of five hundred pounds, for the building of the church, the said McKenzie and the trustees of the said church to agree on the plan and specifications to be followed in the construction of the church.

Witness to the agreement:

[Signatures]

Menkens architect 1889.
THIS MEMORIAL STONE
WAS LAID BY
MRS. M. S. PARIN
ON THE 31ST OF OCTOBER 1889
MINISTER THE REV. T. A. GORDON.
FRED. B. MERKERS F.I.A. R. DUMORELL
ARCHITECT.  CONTRACTOR.
According to the tradition a number of current coins, copies of local newspapers and an account of the event were placed beneath the memorial stone. The building took a year to complete and cost about £10,000.

The four exquisite stained glass windows and pulpit are treasured and the pipe organ which was built by Hill & Sons, London, with its three manuals, pedal and 29 stops, is admired for its beauty of tone.

The spire stands sentinel over Civic Square and on Sundays a small carillon calls before morning service. Inside the details are simple and bold and the whole impression is one of thorough and decided proportions. The acoustics are amazing, speech is distinct and music reverberant.

To-day it shows little signs of decay, not only because of solid construction given it by the architect, but also because necessary maintenance has been carried out, as the Trustees and congregation think of it as a monument to their pioneers thoroughness.
Like the Presbyterians, the Baptist congregation were in search of a more central position. In 1886 the Reverend Seth Jones "with great foresight," as was accored him, secured a block of land in Laman Street. Little did he know that 55 years later the Tabernacle erected there would stand as an obstacle to a Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre scheme and would be threatened with demolition. But the law and the unyielding firmness of its trustees then came to the rescue. It prompted one architect of the panel engaged on the Cultural Centre to say in 1949, "I want no compromise with present buildings. The area lends itself more than anything to becoming Newcastle's Civic Square and we should pursue that ideal. It has been said the Tabernacle is the finest type of Corinthian architecture in Australia. It is not; it is merely pseudo-Renaissance with a cement rendered front." 14

However, praise was given it by one who viewed the drawings in 1889 for it was said "The front of the building is cemented pure Corinthian and from the plans we predict the appearance of the building when completed will compare favourably with anything yet erected in the Southern Hemisphere" 13 a rather ambitious prediction. But whatever its worth it remains a thorough piece of craftsmanship. An edifice of this nature defies accurate judgment for it was the natural product of its own period and can only be gauged with the sympathies and by the standards of that period.

There was good reason for its design. It was confided that Padre Jones and others insisted on a Tabernacle similar in character to Spurgin's great Metropolitan Temple in London and that Menkens was opposed to placing this design on a corner block. The building is not designed to suit the corner as was the Hamilton Mechanic's Institute and the scheme does not compare with the Presbyterian Church opposite where the building was freely designed without "facade!" (See Ps 196:33).

The ceremony of the laying of the Tabernacle's memorial stones took place on the afternoon of Christmas day and was a great success. The Reverend Seth Jones as chairman "wished a large crowd a Merry Christmas, and said he felt very merry because he had reached a high mark to which he had been struggling and advancing for four years." 13
Rendered front recently painted.
antefixa

capitals

the work of a clever plasterer
After the memorial stones were declared "well and truly laid" he then called for subscription, himself donating £150 (from collections) the Sabbath School children £60; Mr. J.R. Rodgers, contractor, £30; and F.B. Menkens, £25/5/0.

(Apparently builders have always been in a more favourable position.)

Of particular interest were the 'strong concrete foundations' and this is not inappropriate, for often the old chorus 'Build on the Rock' floats out from its portals. The acoustics are all that 'can be desired' for the two vestries at the pulpit end of the church reflect speech from their curved surfaces evenly into the hall. The ceiling, which up to recent years was painted blue and dotted with gold stars, was specially designed for acoustics and ventilation.  

To-day the church stands solid as ever and has been renovated, being painted according to a modern pastel scale of colour which together with a new electric organ and yellow glass windows, is admired by the crowds that flock there. The building has served its purpose faithfully and will do so for years to come.

keystone decoration to the full

thorough proportions
short-cut from Civic Park.
the ultimate in draftsmanship

note gaslight over entrance gates
steel beam supporting pediment

Menkens 1889
The seats though strongly constructed prompt many to bring cushions.
Hours of patient drafting.  slightly larger than original
Reproduced slightly smaller than original.
Soon after St. Andrew's Church came the Presbyterian Manse erected in 1890 next to their new church and out of the same type of yellow pressed bricks. Then a month later came yet another yellow brick building, a 'Villa Residence' up in Church Street, Newcastle (See p43). It is a solution peculiar to the site. The back elevation which faces north and looks down upon the city is a fantastic arrangement but the opposite elevation which faces the street, is a particularly fine piece of moulded brickwork. Although the entrance projection is out of scale, its miniture appearance does not fail to fascinate.

These two buildings were the last by Menkens in the city to have earth closets, for about this time sewerage lines were being rapidly extended and water made more readily available, it being pumped by the old Watt beam engines on the Hunter River at West Maitland. It became evident that there should be one controlling organisation and so in 1892 came the Hunter District Water Board.
Brick craft
Lance Villa Residence.
The Presbyterian Manse today shabby and neglected.
Georgian chimney.

The fine doors of Dangani Law Offices are still in use.
Menkens was to meet a wealthy grazier, Albert Augustus Dangar, who owned two large properties in the fat cattle country of the Hunter Valley, and who had other property investments in Newcastle. Menkens' first job for him was the addition of a balcony to a terrace of houses. From this small beginning as is often the case, he received a larger commission, a block of Law offices. They were sited in Bolton Street handy to the newly built courthouse. (See p46).

The planning could not be more simple and here was a fine brick front with small accentuating decorations. But a few years ago it was given a 'facelift.' The piers and decorations were knocked off and our modern plasterers proceeded to cover up wall and arch which were the patient and painstaking work of bricklayers sixty three years before them.

Next he did a little work for St. Augustine's Church of England, Merewether designing a small school room. It is of little importance except to further show Menkens decided and long window proportions. It is notable that a trustee of this church Mr. E.A.M. Merewether was a member of the building committee on a previous Menkens job, the Hamilton Mechanic's Institute. (See p47).
Plan of Law Offices

To be erected in Bolton Street Newcastle

For

A.A. Dancar Esq.

Scale 1/160 Feet.

First Floor Plan
St. Augustine's, Merewether
School Room.
Guest House the "Gunyah" Belmont.
PLAN OF SUPERIOR PRIVATE BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT

AT BELMONT

FOR

JAMES E. HANNELL ESG.

FRONT ELEVATION

SIDE ELEVATION

SECTION ON LINE A.B.

SECTION C.O. OF KITCHEN WING

PLAN OF PIERG SUPPORTING PLATES

GROUND PLAN

F. B. MENKENS ARCHITECT
H. BEVAN & SON BUILDERS
DATE. 21-8-1891

This building fronts Pacific Highway and has a view of the Lake towards the Rear. It is known as the "GUNYAH"
St. STEPHENS Church of England
Brunker Road, Adamstown.

West elevation is simple and balanced.
There was a little township rapidly growing just over the hill to the west of Merewether. It had the same reason to grow as many other settlements, for there was coal in the surrounding hills. The days of one large farm had gone and the scene had changed to miners' cottages and picket fences. Then came the election of the council in 1886 and Robert Adams became Mayor, and the little settlement was named Adamstown.

By 1892 the Church of England congregation were weary of riding or tramping the few miles over to St. Augustine's Merewether, so they decided it was about time they had a church of their own.

Their site was on the crown of a hill and was admirably suited to a tall commanding structure but this was not possible with a £146 bank balance. Menkens first design was in brick but cost probably forced them to change to timber. The resulting weatherboard building cost £500.

Then on a summer afternoon a small gathering stood waiting for the Bishop to arrive and dedicate their foundation stone. They may as well have not mixed that batch of mortar for three o'clock, for the Right Reverend Dr. Stanton arrived an hour late.

He said in his speech that seeing those of them gathered there and knowing from the treasurers statement, he had no fear that the £350 would be speedily forthcoming. He impressed upon them that "many hands make light work" and then gave his sermon. "A church served many uses. Some person imagined that it was only identified with life to come. Those who thought so took a narrow view of the question. Its reach was far more wide than that. Religion was like an irrigation system feeding life."

The Bishop then prepared to leave and during the singing of the subsequent hymn the visitors handed in their offering which amounted to the sum of £9.10.3.  

As it happened the contract amount could not be met but Menkens after inspecting the work with specification in hand and finding no fault threatened them with the terms of the contract. This is one case where Menkens came to the rescue of the builder. The church was paid off.

To-day canvassers knock at doors in Adamstown and explain that they are erecting a new brick church ultimately to replace their old-fashioned timber one. Work has already commenced, the wooden chancel demolished and a brick apsidal end with tile roof has been erected. Eventually the simple and humble front elevation will be replaced by large blocks of brickwork designed in the 'ecclesiastical' manner and will have to be referred to as the West Front.
CHURCH OF ENGLAND. The brick scheme by Menkens early 1892, which was better unbuilt.
There's craftsmanship in those hammer beam trusses and simplicity in the front elevation.

Rev. John Wm. Upjohn, Vicar, Merewether
Menkens - architect
H. Dyson - builder
Date 12-10-1892
A TOWN HALL FOR NEWCASTLE.

Early in 1890 the Newcastle Borough council offered a premium of £100 for competitive designs showing how the whole of the southern portion of Market Square (now the Strand Theatre area) "may be made more remunerative and ornamental to the city as a general market place." 16

"The project was to cost not more than £18,000 and provide for an arcade of shops along Hunter Street. Although the land was dedicated to markets they had experience of public market systems when the first structure was built in 1870 by Thomas Smith. The Mayor, James Hannell had said "that no sooner was it erected and the stalls thrown open to public competition, than it proved a failure, the hawkers and farm settlers preferring their old practice of disposing of their colonial produce from their boats,"17 at what was called or known as Old Market Wharf now in the approximate vicinity of the Stockton Ferry Wharf.

At a special meeting held in July, 1891, after allowing one whole year for the competitors to perfect every detail, the five submitted sets of plans were considered. It was with much argument that finally at a meeting in August the plans of 'a leading Newcastle architect,' (Mr. F.B. Menkens) bearing the non-de-plume "Federaton" were adopted and he was awarded the prize of £100.18

The aldermen themselves were the judges and so opinion was divided. Some argued that Mr. Menkens' design, which made provision for 42 shops, 30 rentable offices, a Town Hall and the Council's Chamber, and offices, did not carry out the provisions of the competition as the land was dedicated for market purposes. They would prefer the rival plan marked 'Compactum' which allowed for central markets and utilized much of the then present structure.17

Alderman Rodgers who had signed a contract with A.A. Dangar and Menkens to build the new Law Offices severely criticised those who wished to delay or obstruct the matter and so prevent the successful architect from getting the premium. Obviously Alderman Rodgers was one builder sympathetic towards Menkens.

Alderman Thorn of the other faction argued that the front elevation of 'Compactum' was perfect and said that "competent builders just as clever as Alderman Rodgers had said 'Compactum' was far and away the best plan."

The Mayor decided that it was high time a plan was decided on. The only regret was that there were not three prizes instead of one as the whole of the five plans were works of art and had cost the competitors a vast amount of time and patience.
Plan of Residence

For

George Lindsay Esq.

Newcastle

Elevation of Front

Elevation facing Scott Street

Elevation facing Parnell Street

Section on Line A-B

Section on Line C-D

Section on Line E-F

Plan of Cellar

Ground Plan

First Floor Plan

Scale 8 feet to one inch

c/r Parnell Place and Scott Street, Newcastle. still a shop.

Menkens
1892.
Then after several motions and amendments to motions the plans "Federation" were carried six votes to four.

One alderman complained that in his opinion they made a great mistake when they opened a letter at the first meeting and ascertained the name of the architect.

Another alderman wanted to know whether the plans marked "Federation" had been altered in the room Market Avenue so as to comply with conditions. 16

Unfortunately these documents could not be located for us to judge for ourselves. It would seem that they have become lost or destroyed when the Council moved to new premises in later years.

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All through the colony there were immigrants anxious to invest their labours in the expanding prosperity. George Lindsay came from Scotland and started in Newcastle as a coal miner, and an occupation as stocker.

After a position as manager on New Zealand Goldfields he was back in Newcastle 'digging another field'. He opened the Commercial Hotel and was its host for five years then in 1888 he was Landlord of the Crystal Palace Hotel. In 1892 having pursed his pennies he went to see Menkens, and engaged him to design a small shop as he was a member of the Great Northern Victualers Association and had been its president. 2

The first design was rejected, the building taking too much space along the main street, so the plan was reversed. There are two customs which were prevalent in the period and which do not suit the purpose. One is the corridor on the ground plan which could have been eliminated and allowed more area for the shop. The other is the balcony and although it forms a delicate foil to the severe front it serves no practical purpose in its open state.

To-day it has been enclosed not only to give its occupants more privacy but because it is impossible to enjoy the ocean views in such an exposed position.
WOOD'S CHAMBERS
Scott St., Newcastle.
Menkens, architect.
1892.
If you stand outside Newcastle Station in Scott Street the eye will detect a building opposite freely covered with ornament.

This is Woods Chambers and is the masterpiece of Frederick Menkens. His client Joseph Wood, of the firm of Wood Bros. & Co., wholesale wine and spirit merchants and brewers, was president of the 'Liedertafel' (maybe he met Menkens here) and the Newcastle Rowing Club and director of the Newcastle Steamship Co., and Wickham & Bullock Island Colliery Co. He must have been the ideal client allowing Menkens great scope. It is interesting to note that immediately the building was completed Menkens moved his offices there from Hunter Street.

If this was in the back of his mind while he was patiently drafting, who can blame him for taking the trouble he did?

It was acclaimed in its day as being the finest of its kind in the city, apparently because it possessed all the up-to-date equipment that could be provided for "superior office accommodation and auction premises." A building journal of the day went as far as to say, "That all business apartments were not surpassed in the colony. The fittings throughout were of best taste with marble mantels and fenders, register grates with tiled hearths and asbestos fires and gas fittings of the latest design. The sanitation and ventilation suited adequately all modern requirements."

The ceilings were of kauri pine with cedar cornices and astonishingly enough a 'deafening course' was provided to deaden the sound between floors. Another unique feature was the wide entrance which was roofed with Helliwell's patent glass roof between rafters. The front of the building is in the picturesque style of the Queen Anne period, the mainwork being red pressed bricks and loaded with 'featured' stone and plaster details. At the crown of each of the five arches above the footpath is displayed a different head, among which Hercules and Atlas appear. A pair of beautifully proportioned oriel windows are cleverly corbelled out and daringly supported by their solid keystones. All the time these and other flanking ornaments build up to a climax which is unnoticed by many who hurry along the glary pavement below. It is a niche containing the symbol of commerce set in the plainwork of a typical German gable.

But the facade has one peculiarity which is noticed only after all embellishments have been absorbed. The two flanking entrances are unequal, the difference being three feet, but this apparently did not worry Menkens.
Emblem of Commerce and monstrous keystone ornament.
Hercules
Wood's Chambers.
Pedimented head right hand doorway.

Atlas
Wood's Chambers.
The building was later purchased by the Longworth family who established within its doors the Longworth Institute, an intellectual centre with a reference library and art gallery always open to visitors. The good acoustics of the auction market now were noticed by many who came to dignified music recitals and band concerts.

In 1928 Mr. William Longworth donated the building to the Australian Society of Patriots who inserted a tablet into one of the brick piers claiming that here was the vicinity of the landing place of Lieut. John Shortland R.N., September 9 th., 1797.

The renaissance letters 'Longworth Institute' have been retained and if Menkens were to see these to-day he most certainly would remark that the Roman Ns were fixed upside down. (See p55A).

With each train pulling out of Newcastle Station yet another shower of sulphurous soot adds to the grime already hiding unexpected ornament.
"Woodlands" Church Street, Newcastle. The residence of the owner of Menkens Wood's Chambers, Joseph Wood. Architect unknown.
The roofing tiles came from France.
Wood's Chambers  Scott Street, Newcastle.  Menkens offices 1st floor from 1893 to 1907
John R. Rodgers who had built the Baptist Tabernacle and the Law of Offices now found himself travelling up to Mr. A.A. Dangar's property at 'Baroona' near Singleton, to carry out the addition of a tower to the homestead with Menkens as architect. The tower does not seem to be founded on any reason for it is thrust up in one corner of the building. Possibly it is possible to spot bushfires from it, but in any case it is an object of interest which can be sighted miles before its entrance gates are reached. Menkens was to design many outbuildings here and at 'Gostwyck,' another property owned by Mr. Dangar.
He knew how to design a gable.

Part of Wallsend Hospital designed by Menkens in 1892 on the cottage principle. Note the clear drawing and the 4½" cavity to the main block. Only this part of the drawing could be traced.

It is interesting to note that architect E.G. Yeomans was adding nurses' quarters on to this building when Menkens was in gaol in 1896.
Grand Stand at Old Raymond Terrace Showground Menkens 1894.

delightful finial strap-iron ornament.
In 1893 there was a new Baptist Tabernacle erected at Wallsend which undoubtedly took its design from the new Newcastle Tabernacle but it was much smaller and instead of plaster was constructed out of timber. It is surprising to study the long-section and find that the Doric facade is really a piece of joinery. Although this is dishonest it must have required great skill to design and construct. The builder was appropriately named Ebenezer Dann of Merewether who was an experienced joiner. Even to this day his family run a small joinery works in Merewether with one of their specialties 'Danns Doors.'
Plan of Baptist Tabernacle for Wallsend

Front Elevation

Section on line A B

Side Elevation

Plan of Piers and Walling

Below Floor Level

Ground Plan

Section on line C D

Nelson Street, Wallsend.

Menkens architect 1893.
c/r Lorna and Bridge Streets, Waratah.

Mr. Charles Davis, veteran builder in Newcastle worked on this job. He later did considerable work under Menkens. Today he is still a vigorous builder.
Villa Residence for Joseph C. Wood in 1895.
This was Menkens last design before going to prison.
JESMOND HOUSE (architect unknown) owned by John R. Wood in 1895.
Menkens additions are the two high wings on the left.
Menkens was now at the height of his success. He had worked for many of Newcastle's most important business men and by his strong professional attitude had become more than well known in the industry. He could design magnificently, was an excellent draftsman and was thought to have even more practical knowledge than a builder and, in his top-hat and swallow tail coat, was considered the 'perfect picture of an architect' who by this time spoke perfect English. But one thing was certain; he did not know anything about new fangled electrical apparatus or the way to handle the revolutionary technicians. At the time Menkens was architect for Mr. John R. Wood, of the firm of Wood Bros. Brewers, proud owner of Jesmond House to which normal additions of kitchen and servants quarters were being effected.

Mr. Harry Hyde Kingsbury, electrician and manufacturer contracted to supply certain lightning rods with platinum points to the tower. Mr. Kingsbury represented the General Electric of America for both tramways and electric lighting and had installed the earliest plant in Newcastle at Lambton in 1889 and claimed he was the first to introduce the telephone to Sydney. In all he had equally impressive accomplishments.

It is interesting to speculate that, as Mr. Wood was a director of the Gas Company, any electrician allowed near the job would have been under strict supervision. As it happened, during an inspection of the electrical work Mr. Menkens became very angry and thinking the lighting rods were of a cheaper metal than he had specified, according to Mr. Kingsbury spoke maliciously, telling him "to take the points back to Sydney. They are not platinum, they are only silver. Mr. Kingsbury may be thankful that I do not prosecute him for trying to extort money under false pretenses." Soon Menkens found himself in No. 2 Jury Court, Sydney facing Mr. Kingsbury who was seeking to recover the sum of £1,000 for alleged slander. The plaintiff complained that the statement greatly injured his credit and reputation. Menkens then entered defence of not guilty and after more evidence from the plaintiff the jury of four retired to consider.

At ten past nine that night the jury announced that there were two to two. They stated that there was no chance of their agreeing and his honour said that in such a case the law compelled him to lock them up for twelve hours.
Terraced lawns to the north of Jesmond House.

the additions to Jesmond House, from rear, during which Menkens went to prison.
The jury thereupon elected to retire again and after an absence of forty minutes came in with a unanimous verdict for the plaintiff with forty shillings damages. In reply to a question by his honour the jury said "the defendant in using the words complained of, had not been guilty of an improper motive. He had spoken under a feeling of annoyance."

And now came Menkens streak of independence that he had inherited from his ancient Frisian forefathers. He elected to go to goal rather than pay damages. He explained the whole situation in the Newcastle Morning Herald August, 1895, stating that:

Fred. B. Menkens
Architect,
Wood's Chambers, Scott Street,
Newcastle.

Begs to inform his clients and the Public generally that, owing to his inability to pay plaintiffs costs in the action Kingsbury v Menkens, reported in the Sydney Morning Herald of the 4th & 5th June, 1895; which he in the course of his duties, whilst acting in his professional capacity in the interest of John R. Wood Esq., of Jesmond House, Newcastle, was forced to defend, has been compelled to enter Debtor's Prison, Darlinghurst for a term of 12 months from this date and his office will be closed in consequence during that period, at the termination of which he trusts his clients and the Public generally will again favour him with their patronage, which at all times it will be his best endeavour to merit in the future as it has been in the past. Fred. B. Menkens, Wood Chambers, Scott Street, Newcastle 6/8/95.

Numbers of his friends, especially his client J.R. Wood, offered to pay the amount but he steadily refused on principle. He served twelve months, sequested his estate, satisfied all his creditors but one and came back to his work at Newcastle. 1

He merely published the following:
Frederick Menkens
Architect
"has recommenced the practice of his profession." 2

His reputation had not been effected for he appeared immediately in a court case as a witness giving authoritative evidence on timber machining.

It is said that his whole attitude to his work had changed and this is certainly reflected in his drawings. His early drafting shows thin and accurate lines with a surveyor-like lettering. His subsequent drawings show a broader more fluent line (probably because his pen was wearing down) and the lettering develops into script form.
The warehouse and hotel for A.A. Dangar in 1897.
Warehouse destroyed by fire in 1907.
It is believed by many that Menkens worked on a set of plans while in prison. It could well be, for the following January tenders were invited for the erection of a large Warehouse and Hotel for his wealthiest client A.A. Dangar. A month later the contract was signed and work commenced on this massive brick project. The two buildings of the group appear as though they could have been designed by different architects for their details are completely different. It was apparently recognised that the appearance of the type of building followed its function (See Ps 70 & 71).

The warehouse is notable for many reasons and marks the start of a new period in Menkens career.

Due to commercial development in the city larger structures resulted, consequently, mass became more pronounced and the details less important. Menkens expresses the arch as a bay unit of construction for the first time in his work, which could be an American influence. All is simplified to merely suggest classic model, resulting in an unfortunate monotony. The ornament has been ommitted, the detail retained. (See p 68).

The Warehouse was occupied by D.C. Cohen & Co., and being established in 1838, were among the pioneer firms in Australia and held a prime place for continuity of name and ownership.22

Cohens' had occupied for many years another store in East Newcastle for which the architect is unknown and in 1901 fire completely destroyed it.

To quote the press, "Never in the history of the city has there been a conflagration so sudden all consuming."25 Newcastle was fast becoming well known as the "City of Blazes." The town was agog with excitement and during one afternoon news had been spread about that there were many kegs of op rum to be operated upon and even those who did not show anxiety felt that some danger might result from an explosion.28

All this and other excitement amounted to a total cost of £70,000 of which £8,000 was the value of the building. The fire brigades were publicly criticised for having ineffective fire appliances and generally for being totally disorganised. It was the custom that the first brigade to reach a fire became the Master Brigade and gave instructions. This often met with the disapproval of the subordinate brigades who were very necessary for the successfull control of large fires.
The hotel has to have a coat of paint to keep it watertight.
The Great Northern Hotel about 1896.

The place of Menkens residence in Newcastle, for he was a bachelor.
With Cohens old store gone
Menkens was promptly commissioned
for another warehouse of a
complicable size in 1901
(See Ps 74 & 75).
This new design shows further,
the movement towards plain
treatment of wall surface. The
whole of the facade is dark red
bricks with coloured joints and has
shown absolutely no signs of
weathering. It is a masterpiece
of brickwork, and when talking of
standards builders often refer to
this remarkable brick facade.
There must have been much work and
energy expended on this front for
it is told that after the brickwork
was up a considerable height,
Menkens ordered its demolition.
Some believe that the facade was
encroaching on the alignment, and
others believe that it was because
of strained relations with the
builder that prompted Menkens to
check the measurement with his
issued half inch details, finding
a discrepancy of a few inches.
It is noted that this and the
previous warehouse of 1897 are
similar in principle. The
elevations express verticality
a cornice line is preserved at
the top floor level and pier
heads are heavily treated.
These heavy pier heads and
massive parapets are typical of
Menkens later work.

Cohens', Bolton Street
a noble brick facade.
Plan of Warehouse on Bolton Street, Newcastle.

For Messrs. Cohen & Co.

Scale of feet to an inch.

D.C. Cohens Warehouse Bolton Street Newcastle, Menkens 1901.
Plan of Warehouse in Dalton Street, Newcastle

by


Scale 8 feet to an Inch.

See the Plan. Witnessed in the Agreement made between James Cohen, junior, of the one part, and David Cohen and Cohen of the other part and dated the twentieth day of May 1891.

Signed by the said David Cohen and the said Cohen.

Section on line E.A.B.

Scale: 1/150 feet.

Conventional timber storey post construction. Menkens 1901.
The fire of 1907 leaving the four massive corner piers standing.
Then in 1907 yet another fire destroyed their store of 1897 by Menkens. Its complete destruction was due to the use of unprotected steel girders which buckled and twisted leaving the walls without support. Menkens again, (by this time the firm of Menkens and Castleden) was engaged to rebuild the premises and the resulting building again indicates a change. Plastered ornament does not appear, wall surfaces become completely monotonous but ornament still lingered in the apex and base stones of the gable.

Consequently to-day a reserve water tank for firefighting is placed high on every tall building in Newcastle, most of all Cohens now Mitchell & Co., in Bolton Street who have their's prominently balanced on one back corner.
However back to 1897, he designed additions to the Sailor’s Home and a residence near Muswellbrook which have obviously been drawn up almost at the same time, for each has a projecting hexagonal roof (See Ps78&79).

He commences his services for the Gas Company and designs a really simple meter house (See p 80), the size and treatment being in complete contrast to his Warehouses.

The next few years were not very prolific, and there seems to be a lapse in building generally. In 1898 there were just additions to an old mansion in Waratah. See p.

In 1899 one of his clients was his faithful friend Joseph Wood who required a number of shops to be built. The planning is simple and is much the same as we have to-day (See p 82). There is an entrance, shop space twelve feet wide (now proved to be too small), yard and separate toilet and service entrance. Of note on the elevation is the arch and point load system which unfortunately to-day is covered with an awning. Later the parapet was demolished, another floor added and the parapet reassembled.

His other client was R. Hall & Sons who required a new warehouse (See p 83) to replace the recently burnt out ruins. It is suspected that Menkens designed their first warehouse around 1886, its appearance being typical of Menkens early period (See p 12), for comparison.

Things must have been really hard now, for we find his sole job in 1900 was a small block of sanitary additions at the Gas Company for which he didn’t even bother to draw an end elevation (See p 84).

The following year A.A. Dangar built his Commercial Chambers in Scott Street, Newcastle, a long building with verandah front facing north and has been treated with freshness. The roof has rolled edge copper shingles in a diagonal scale like pattern and the columns and beams and framing are turned woodwork. Apparently cast-iron was losing its popularity. (See p 85).

Menkens signed the drawing 1891 but this is obviously wrong because the drafting and design does not belong to 1891 and also reference to the contract declaration shows 1901 it being very unlikely that he should keep a drawing for ten years before being built.
The Superintendents Residence of The Sailors' Home, Scott Street, Newcastle, converted into Departmental offices.
Plan of Meter House for The Newcastle Gas Co.

Front Elevation

End Elevation

Ground Plan

Section on line A.B.

Scale 3 feet to one Inch.
The pioneer buildings were becoming in need of repairs and renovations. Their additions were invariably designed according to the contemporary vernacular and with little sympathy.

Menkens enclosed part of the verandah and added the Kitchen block seen on right to this house for H. Langwill in 1898.
Business Premises for Joseph Wood, Scott Street, Newcastle.
It has an added first floor and an awning covers the original arches.
R. Hall & Son's Fire. Taken during the Dajager.

The burnt out building is suspected to be by menhens in the eighties. Menhens could be in the group.
This building replaced the burnt out ruins. One of two jobs in 1899 by Menkens.
Plan of Sanitary Additions

to

Newcastle Gas Works

Scale 3 feet to an Inch

signed by the said
J. W. Brown in the presence of J. J. Owen

.. signed by the said
.. in the presence of...

Elevation

Section on line A.B.

Ground Plan

Present Fence

Present Fence

Tar Pavement

Lattice Fencing

No end elevation.
Commercial Chambers with upper floor additions by F.G. Castleden.
Cavity walls to the south and east. Menkens 1901 although he signs 1891.
facing King Street, Newcastle.
Plan of Residence
in Church Street, Newcastle

Note: Four of these houses are required.

Side Elevation facing East

Front Elevation facing North

Ground Plan

First Floor Plan

Scale 20 feet = 1 unit

Group of four houses by Menkens, a step away from terrace housing.
One of the pinnacles on Charleston's Studios
Hunter Street, Newcastle.
The succeeding years show much commercial development in the city for the Central Hotel and six substantial business premises were built. Of these, four were Warehouses for Merchants. They were:

T. Garrett & Sons Ltd., Produce Merchants, Hunter Street. 1905. (See p90).
F. Ash Ltd., Hardware Merchants, Hunter Street. 1905. (See p90). opp.
T. Burke & Son, Produce Merchants, King Street. 1906. (See p91).
and R. Hall & Son, Produce Merchants, Scott Street. 1905. (See p89).

These warehouses have something in common. They are designed in a 'style' which can be traced back to Cohens' Warehouses of 1897 and 1901. They all have massive parapets, brick arches crowning long piers and heavy pier terminations. The design is monotonous and completely lacks the freshness he obtained in his early work. Most likely his mind was starting to show the signs of 20 years meticulous work. It must be remembered that he had an extensive practice and did most of the original work himself. He wrote out neatly his own specifications with draft often running into thirty pages, presumably the office boy made required copies. He presented his own contract drawing leaving some subsequent detail drawings to be prepared by a junior.

The other two business premises his late period were Charleson's Studios popular then for its family portraits, and more premises for A.A. Bangar.

The Studios, designed late in 1905, represent his last effort in completely treating the facade with detail. The ornament is less fluent than that on his Woods Chambers and it is believed that it was a complete headache to the builder Frederick Viggers who just managed to make a job of it and recover from near bankruptcy. Of particular note are the two heavily decorated pinnacles in worked copper which would be a curiosity in any city but these and the whole front are unnoticed by the many who shop under the awning beneath. (See p92 & opposite).

Then again in 1906 he had the fortune to design a large Residence (Villa being dicarded as being old fashioned) for John R. Hall of the firm of Produce Merchants. This was Menkens largest residence, and set up in a commanding position next to Mr. Wood's Jesmond House. The original slate roof has been replaced by tiles, and the Balcony enclosed not because extra space is needed but a balcony is of no practical value in this exposed position. (See p94/5).
a substantial building
Central Hotel Hunter Street,
Newcastle, opp. Strand Theatre.
Menkens 1903.
Central Hotel Newcastle. It is believed that the builder publicly claimed that certain details could not be constructed, to which Menkens replied that 1903 he would construct them himself (this is generally known to many of the old).
R. Hall & Son warehouse, Scott St., Newcastle with their previous store by Menkens on right. The shop on left was by Menkens in 1886.
Plan of Warehouse for John R. Hall Esq.

R. Hall & Son

Elevation facing Market Street Lane

Section main 12 ft.

Warehouse Scott Street, Newcastle. Menkens 1905.
The two are similar showing the heavy treatment of the parapet and piers.
Both at Hunter St., Civic, Newcastle.
Plan of Store premises in Hunter Street

Messrs T. Garrett & Sons Ltd.

Front Elevation

Side Elevation facing West

Section on line A.B.

Section on line C.D.

T. Garrett & Sons Ltd. Produce Merchants established 1884
Hunter Street, Newcastle.

Menkens 1905.
Burkes' Warehouse now altered to a modern wool exchange. The old Building was once a popular dance hall.
Originally Charleston's Studios now with its steel awning and neon sign.

Hunter Street, Newcastle
Menkens 1906.
Plan of Business Premises
in Hunter Street, Newcastle
for
H. Charleston Esq.
Scale 6 feet to an inch

Front Elevation

Section on line A B

Section on line C D

Back Elevation and Section of R.C. of Hards

Charleston Studios popular then for family portraits.

1906.
Dangar's Premises with the addition of a floor by F.G. Castleden in 1911.
The residence Barker Street, now well preserved, the slate roof being replaced with tiles.
The Residence of a Lt. Colonel 4th Australian Regiment.

Menkens 1906
The living room is 30' x 23', Menkens largest.
Residence for W. S. Bacon 1906. (L. A. Reedmans' Grandfather)
c/r Queen's Road and Evescourt Road,
New Lambton.

Shop and Dwelling, c/r Scott and Zara Streets, Newcastle.
1905.

Gas Co. Offices and Showrooms
1902 Hunter Street West,
Newcastle.

Dwelling c/r Hunter and Telfords
Streets, Newcastle. 1905.
One of a group of two.

Miscellaneous Works
by Menkens.
Menkens saw great commercial development in Newcastle.
In 1870 the buildings were rarely over two storeys.
The same corner around 1895 with many old buildings replaced.
By 1910 taller buildings appear.
The street in front of Menkens about 1907. Wood's Chambers on extreme right.

Today
His second last job (See p100) in late 1906 shows he is losing all sense of design. He loses his good balance of proportions and the forms become incompetent.

His last work was his drawing of the Rectory for Hamilton which is completely lacking (See p101). It was evident that he needed a partner to carry on his business. And so it was that Mr. F.G. Castleden came from the Government Architect's Department in Sydney and entered into partnership with Menkens.

Mr. Castleden brought with him a new expression, an outlook of the younger generation although he was forty years of age himself and the resulting work shows a complete change. A surge of new ideas and new uses for materials altered the appearance of the firm's buildings.

This may be seen by comparing Menkens design of the Hamilton Rectory (See p101) with Castleden's amended drawing (See p102). The ceiling heights reduced from 12 ft. to 11 ft., corrugated roofing used instead of slate, timber balcony treatment replacing the cast iron, fanlights disappearing and picture rails were introduced. The details also had a new treatment. The chimney stacks were simplified and the gable received an infill of timber and stucco which became typical of Mr. F.G. Castledens work.

Chimney by Menkens
Keightley Residence 1884
horizontal treatment

Castleden's chimney
a new treatment 1908

New ideas and materials replaced the old.
His efforts were almost exhausted when he came to design this small hall. He was 51 years of age.
Note the superimposed pencil lines by Castleden.
Menken's last drawing.
1907.
Church of England Rectory
Hamilton
Castleden's drawing amending Menkens.
New Offices at Newcastle

For The Newcastle & Hunter River Steamship Co. Ltd.

1/20 Scale

East Elevation

South Elevation

Section A-T

Section C-T

West Elevation

Section E-F

North Elevation

Side Elevation

Ground Plan

First Floor Plan

Office at Lea Wharf demolished in 1955.

1908.
House the Terrace, Newcastle
verandahs fully enclosed.
Residence of H.B. Brett c/r Russell Rd.,
Brett Street, New Lambton.
1907.

M miscellaneous Works by
Menkens and Castleden.

The old Presbyterian Manse, c/r Winship and Samdon Streets, Hamilton.
Recently demolished for the erection of a new service station.

now Denison St.
Leaving the business in the capable hands of Mr. Castleden, Menkens made a world tour, principally to see his aged mother in Oldenburg, Germany and after wandering through the world decided that New South Wales was the happiest place to live. Consequently he built his house the Chateau D'if in Avoca Street, Randwick and laid out a garden and settled down to enjoy his remaining years with his total estate more than £6,600. He was a life student and spent most of his leisure time in these years amongst his books and papers. But his strenuous life had made inaction impossible and like many another, retired from work only to die.

at Waverley Cemetery
REFERENCES.

The red index numbers in the text correspond with this list.

Abreviation: N.M.H. means Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate.

1. N.M.H. 12/3/10


6. Europe since 1789 F.W. Tickner P 147

7. N.M.H. 9/7/84


11. Souvenir Newcastle Civic Week 1929.

12. N.M.H. 1/11/1889.

13. N.M.H. 27/12/1889.

15. N.M.H. 5/11/1892.
17. Records of Newcastle, Bingle.
20. N.M.H. 7/5/1895.
21. N.M.H. 17/10/1896.
23. N.M.H. 1/1/1901.
25. Will No. 49236 at Registrar of Probates.
APPENDIX.

Explaining further that which may have greatly interrupted the text.

Index numbers in the text preceded by the letter A. correspond to the numbers of this appendix.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1806</td>
<td>Napoleon Bonaparte spreads seeds of revolution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1830</td>
<td>Progress of democracy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1848</td>
<td>Count Otto van Bismarck has ambition to unite a Germany under Prussian control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>Born in Prussia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>Bismarck becomes 'Iron' Chancellor and proposes to eliminate two obstacles France and Austria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>Wins Austro-Prussian War while keeping Napoleon III happy with his Rhine strip.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Goes to Building School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Franco-Prussian War - great uprising.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>Germany top nation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>Nations fear aggression.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1873</td>
<td>Continues for Diploma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Race for arms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td>Arrives Adelaide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Race for colonies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Little wonder that Menkens was on a boat headed for a colony.
ORIGINALITY of DRAWINGS.

Although his signature appears on many drawings we can only deduce that Menkens was the author. Firstly...... the drawings were done by a trained draftsman well acquainted with building construction. Menkens had practical knowledge of construction. Secondly...... it would be unlikely that is his young practice he could afford to employ an assistant of such high standard required for those early drawings. Thirdly...... The small notes on some drawings indicate the sporadic use of the capital letter. In the German script there is a capital for every noun and if one has been accustomed to thinking and writing in German it is easy to add capitals to common nouns when writing in English. Finally...... Careful study of his drawings produced over a 25 year period reveal mannerisms and technique which can only be attributed to one draftsman and since there were many changes in office staff it would seem that Menkens was that draftsman.

JOHN ROLLA RODGERS.

Builder and contractor and alderman of the city of Newcastle, was born in Scotland and when 18 months of age arrived in the colony. His parents settled in Hobart till he was ten years of age and then removed to Melbourne where they remained a few years. Subsequently settling in Newcastle he learnt the trade of carpenter and joiner and gained considerable experience in the trade. He took charge of the business of Copley & Co., for 5 years and in 1876 started in a small way on his own account his first contract being the building of a verandah. Mr. Rodgers had built prior to 1888 the Municipal City Buildings, Council Chambers and a large number of Public Schools as well as Gosford Station. In 1888 he had 50 employees and had all the steam plant and joinery machinery requisite to the trade.
STEWART KEIGHTLEY. 4
Born in County Tyrone, Ireland 1847, in 1862 he went into the employ of the Hobson's Bay Railway Company, Melbourne and continued for 15 years. He was then induced by his business associates to come to Newcastle to take charge of the Newcastle Coal Company in 1877, and as it was registered in that year he became its first manager. In 1883 Mr. Keightly was made J.P. He has always been known as a popular and enterprising citizen and has for years sat as alderman of the city of Newcastle of which he once occupied the position of Mayor.

HENRY STEGGA. 5
Was born in Holland. He arrived in Australia in 1874 and five years later established the business of the 'Little Shop' in Market Street, Newcastle. In 1883 he was able to transfer to Hunter Street and the following year toured Europe and in 1885 started his Carrington Clothing Store with a capital of only £25. In 1886 he purchased a valuable building block in Hunter Street West End for which Menkens designed a handsome terrace of shops and dwelling houses later known as the City Emporium.

JOHN STRAUB. 6
Had passed examinations as a builder and contractor in Milan, Italy. Between 1884 and 1894 he carried out large building contracts in Newcastle, building the Deaf and Dumb Institute, Waratah and the Earp, Gillam & Co., Stores both under Menkens. He also built the Gas works and Victoria Theatre. With J. Horbury Hunt as architect, a contract was let in September 1882 to John Straub to build the new Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle. This work was suspended when half complete in 1893 due to disputes between building committee, architect and builder.
ELECTRICITY (in the Newcastle District)
First installed by Lambton Council in 1889 after a committee had visited Young. A contract was drawn up with Kingsbury & Co., the light used being the Sawyer incandescent.
In 1892 a small plant was set up in Tyrell Street, Newcastle, and the council struggled to maintain it.
In 1911 it had 380 consumers with an annual revenue of £8,878 with a loss of £1,521.
Following years the industry prospered as it became competitive with gas and gradually reticulated.
OFFICE STAFF.

1886. T. McOsker
1890. J.I. Donnison
1892. J.N. Newton
1901. Stephen Lott
1907. F.G. Castleden (partner)
1908. Wallace Porter
HIS CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS.


FLOORS. Timber. Bearers and boards often ran length of building. The ventilation space was always correctly 12" under floor joists.

On Ground. External, normally brick covered with render or tiles. Internally, concrete subfloor with joists and boarding. Due to lack of ventilation many floors of the latter type have rotted. "Ironite" flooring was used in cart docks.

Insulated Floor. Where necessary he used a deafening course composed of two parts dry sawdust and one part lime between floor joists.

Upper Floors. Normally used timber storey post construction excepting Cohens 1897 which has steel beams and iron columns. Invariably his structural timber was ironbark.

WALLS. EXTERIOR. Weatherboards often sawn in an ashlar pattern. Timber. Bottom plates were not used, the studs being carried down to the bearer.

Brick. Early work completely solid Cavity was used by Menkens as early as 1884 and normally it was used to the south and west unless these walls were protected by a balcony.

INTERIOR. Where large rooms were required on the ground floor he spanned these with beams to carry the upper walling which was lightened by using studs.

ROOF and CEILING. Trusses - King post normal up to 35 ft. Queen post normal up to 60 ft. The tie beams were usually one piece of oregon.
often rafters with collar ties and struts above or below were framed together.

Rafters - early work has many single spans - deep rafters.

Ceiling Joists - deep sections without stiffeners.

Roofing - Corrugated Iron
Slates
Tiles
Flat Roof introduced by F.G. Castleden into the firm's work in 1908.

GENERALLY.

He always built covering almost all the commercial site leaving small light areas. In most cases the distance between windows far exceeds our standard today. Consequently the intensities of light are so much so that in 1911 roof lights had to be introduced to the top floor of Cohens, Bolton Street.
DESIGN PRINCIPLES.

Throughout his practice he shows that he is the thorough workman always combining his knowledge of craft with a desire to attain something new and fresh. He was always a student and was acquainted with and used up to date techniques.

Always apparent in his work is his attention to proportion, it being at all times decided such as 7 to 3 or even 9 to 2. Every detail on a street front was normally thoroughly considered and expertly positioned but on an elevation of little importance windows were positioned without regard for their outside appearance.

He was always intent on repeating an element whether it is a boarded dado or the painted blue and yellow stripes on the roof of a balcony.

Colour was a very important element and Menkens normally insisted on the right to choose his clients colours.

He was always scholarly in his attitude and had expert knowledge of the orders. It is noted that the classic lesson is always adhered to, semicircular arches receiving a definite stilt and curved forms receiving the right amount of straight before terminating.

All these principles stemmed from his training.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Job Description</th>
<th>Client</th>
<th>Builder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>Two Shops, Wolfe St., Newcastle Residence, Terrace St., Newcastle</td>
<td>School of Arts, Stewart Keightley</td>
<td>John Ash &amp; Sons, Meyers &amp; Thompson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>Shop Scott St., Newcastle Shops &amp; dwellings, West End Deaf and Dumb Institute, Waratah</td>
<td>H.A. Smith, H. Stegga</td>
<td>John Straub, George Lane.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888</td>
<td>Mechanics Institute, Hamilton Bond Store, Telford St., Newcastle</td>
<td>Earp, Gillam &amp; Co.</td>
<td>John Straub, Raymond Dumbrell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Presbyterian Manse Villa Residence, Church Street</td>
<td>W.P. Lance</td>
<td>John Frogle, John Ash &amp; Sons.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1891. Law Offices, Bolton St., A.A. Dangar
       (now Legacy House) John R. Rodgers.

1892. WallSEND Hospital
       Offices and Auction Rooms Joseph Wood, J.P.
       Scott St., (now Air Force Club) John Frogley.
       St. Stephens Church of England, Rev. John Wm. Upjohn
       Adamstown Vicar H.J. Dyson.

1893. Tower for 'Baroona', near A.A. Dangar
       Singleton John R. Rodgers.
       WallSEND Baptist Tabernacle Ebenezer Dann.
       (Merewether) (Merewether)
       Additions to Sailor's Home, Charles Davis & S.
       Scott Street (Hamilton)

1894. Jesmond House Additions John R. Wood
       Newcastle William Wooden &
       John Frost.

1897. Warehouse and Hotel, Market F.A. King.
       Wharf Inn (Singleton) (Singleton)
       (Warehouse was to be occupied
       by D. Cohen & Co., burnt down
       31/12/00) Charles Davis
       Hotel now Shortland Hotel Thos. Hardyman.
       Superintendents Residence Andrew Cook.
       Sailors Home Scott St. Will McJannett
       Wool Store King's Wharf James Hammond.
       Residence, Pickering, Muswellbrook Messrs. F.S. & H.W.
       Bell
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>JOB</th>
<th>CLIENT</th>
<th>BUILDER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>Meter House</td>
<td>Gas Company</td>
<td>John Ash &amp; Sons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Additions, Residence Waratah</td>
<td>H.L. Langwill</td>
<td>William Southon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>Warehouse, Scott Street</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business Chambers, Scott St.</td>
<td>Joseph Wood</td>
<td>Issac &amp; E.H. Banks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Store at 'Gostwick'</td>
<td>A.A. Dangar</td>
<td>Roberts &amp; Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stabling at 'Gostwick'</td>
<td></td>
<td>E.C. Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sanitary Accommodation</td>
<td></td>
<td>J.B. Sanders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sailor's Home Scott Street</td>
<td></td>
<td>J.T. Owen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Issac &amp; Henry Banks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Sanitary Additions</td>
<td>Gas Company</td>
<td>Sydney Pitkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Commercial Chambers (cr. Scott &amp; Pacific Sts.)</td>
<td>A.A. Dangar</td>
<td>Frederick J. Thorby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kitchen Wing 'Gostwick'</td>
<td></td>
<td>Issac &amp; Henry Banks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Warehouse Bolton Street</td>
<td></td>
<td>William &amp; Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Central Hotel, Hunter Street</td>
<td>Tooth &amp; Co.</td>
<td>G.W. Brewer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>The Boltons, Church Street</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thos. Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Warehouse, Hunter Street</td>
<td></td>
<td>Samuel Miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Warehouse, Hunter Street</td>
<td>T. Garret &amp; Sons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Warehouse, Scott Street</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photo Studios</td>
<td>J.R. Hall &amp; Son</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shortland Terrace (cr. Telford &amp; Hunter Sts.)</td>
<td>Isabella Short</td>
<td>Frederick Viggers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>G.W. Brewer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR</td>
<td>JOB</td>
<td>CLIENT</td>
<td>BUILDER</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Council Chambers, Bingara</td>
<td>Joseph Wood</td>
<td>E.H. Banks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additions Wood's Premises Scott Street</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>Residence, Barker Street</td>
<td>John R. Hall</td>
<td>T. &amp; W. Cowan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Masonic Hall &quot;Star in the East&quot; Beaumont Street</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Warehouse, King Street</td>
<td>T. Burke &amp; Sons</td>
<td>C. Davis &amp; Sons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business Premises Hunter Street New Palings</td>
<td>A.A. Dangar</td>
<td>B.G. Pearse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WORK OF MENKENS &amp; CASTLEDEN.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>Residence, Brett St., Lambton Hts. H.P. Brett Terrace Two Houses</td>
<td>H.P. Brett</td>
<td>Bates &amp; Everett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c/r Scott &amp; Zara Streets</td>
<td>J. Donnison</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large Kitchen Wing 'Gostwick'</td>
<td>A.A. Dangar</td>
<td>Bates &amp; Everett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rectory Hamilton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Motor Garage 'Baroona'</td>
<td>A.A. Dangar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Residence, Terrace Street</td>
<td></td>
<td>Everett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cottage c/r Winsen &amp; Samdon Sts.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Warehouse (Bebarfallds)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CONCLUSION.

That Mr. Menkens was a capable architect, always giving of his best to his clients is evident. His whole life was devoted to the study of building and his work deserves more research.

Having researched and recorded the information contained in this thesis the researcher cannot help but consider the benefits. It has given an overall perspective of the requirements of an architect in society. It has enlivened the desire to learn thoroughly the techniques and be fully capable to use them intelligently, always striving to create and achieve design, for the benefit of our environment and fellowman.
It is known that up country he built numerous Churches and Convents at Gunnedah, Singleton and Tenterfield and fine squatters homesteads all through these districts.

His work at 'Baroona' and 'Gostwyck' the two Dangar properties has not been researched. However it is of little importance being only small outbuildings.

Efforts to trace his own Residence at Randwick and also his books and papers, through first hand investigation and a Solicitors office have yielded no results to date.

It is believed that his Chateau D'if is in the Post Office area in Avoca Street, Randwick its garden probably being subdivided and built on.

His portrait has not yet been traced.

The above is a declaration supplementing the information already recorded and will be the subject of future research.