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We thank you for taking the time to explore Lenna's rich heritage. Please use this brochure to guide you through Lenna's history room by room, or, simply take it home with you as a souvenir to share with friends and family.

We hope you enjoy your walk through Lenna's past.

Lloyd and Jan Clark, Lenna Owners

L



Alexander McGregor.



THE PEOPLE OF LENNA

We'll mention a few names as we explore the rooms, beginning with Captain James Bayley, a whaling merchant who built the original home where Lenna now stands.

He sold the house to business partner Alexander McGregor, who married Bayley's sister Harriet. Sir Alfred

Ashbolt bought Lenna in 1914.

We'll also mention Sir Alfred's wife Muriel and their children Elizabeth and Anthony.

Today Lenna is owned by local Hobartians Lloyd and Jan Clark.

“ *A perfect example of Italianate style architecture, the building was a thing of beauty and its location a symbol of power.*

Excerpt from Tiger Men by Judy Nunn, who penned much of her novel in Lenna's Penthouse.



Lenna sits proudly on the Hobart skyline.

GRAND ENTRANCE

Before heading inside, picture this.

It's the 1860s and Lenna sits alone on her lofty hill, grass tumbling down to the water.

At this time, Bayley House has no superiors and becomes the foundation that Lenna is built around. What does

Lenna mean? It's the Tasmanian Aboriginal word for 'house' or 'hut' – fitting for a landmark that served as a family home for over a century.

Classified by the National Trust, notice the carefully cut sandstone from nearby Princes Park and the finely preserved architecture.

“ *Workmanship is accurate down to the millimetre, an impressive feat when most was done by hand and modest machinery.* ”



Lenna



A wedding reception framed by Lenna's front terrace.

FRONT TERRACE

Tradesmen of today shake their head in impressive disbelief at the construction of Lenna. Workmanship is accurate down to the millimetre, an impressive feat when most was done by hand and modest machinery.

Adjacent to Lenna, notice the original gabled home of Alexander's brother, John.

An affectionate rivalry existed between the two. John's lengthy spires atop 'Hillcrest' climb optimistically toward the heights of Lenna's grandeur, with futile rigor.

Across the way, children at Lady Gowrie play in the grounds of a former horse paddock and stables.

“ *It breathes
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Step inside
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THE FRONT FOYER

It breathes of grandeur.

Step inside Lenna and she'll silently inform you're somewhere special. Lenna has a way about her – enveloping you into her lavish fold.

Look up to the detailed ceiling rose and cornices, let those thick walls wrap you

with old-world assurance. Notice a gentle red glow from the stain-glass rose.

There's a distinguished air about Lenna's welcome that speaks of her past, of days when intricate detail mattered. We'll also show you the original entrance as we progress through Lenna.



CHANDELIER LOUNGE BAR

Rumour has it that some of Tasmania's finest social occasions took place right here.

The socialites of Hobart Town would gather during Sir Alfred Ashbolt's ownership for parties of the 'bohemian variety' no less.

One can only imagine the frocks required

for such occasions. Tilt your gaze skyward to the namesake of this room – the original gas-lit crystal chandelier still hangs – no doubt witness to much dancing and merriment.

Sir Alfred bought Lenna in 1914, and proudly converted the chandelier to electricity during his ownership.

“ *He proudly sailed his fleet under a blue and white McGregor gridiron flag – the flag above the door is one of his original flags.*



The lounge bar also celebrates Alexander McGregor's story, a man who arrived by ship to Hobart at just 10 years old.

He and brother John would go on to become master ship builders and possess the largest individually owned fleet south of the equator. He proudly

sailed his fleet under a blue and white McGregor gridiron flag – the flag above the door is one of his original flags.

Take a closer look at the Harriet McGregor (ship) painting, a reproduction after the original was stolen from nearby Narryna years ago. But that's another story.



Lenna fountain Circa 1860s

RECEPTION AREA

No question this reception area is inviting.

According to a stray cat, it became worthy of permanent residence. The cat, later named Alexander and appropriately styled with a blue and white McGregor flag-coloured collar, became a mainstay on the reception counter where gas warmth would rise and a sneaky eye fillet might come his way.

The much-loved feline was even invited to guest rooms back in the 1970s when rules around stray lodgers were a little less firm.

This reception room was originally the "morning room," typically reserved for "general sitting in the early part of the day." It's fitting then, that an original call bell can be seen by the fireplace, once used to summons the servants. You'll find these throughout Lenna.

In the glass case there is a replica of Alexander McGregor's barque 'Harriett

McGregor.' It had a reputation of being the fastest clipper barque for her size in the world. The 'Harriett McGregor' sailed her maiden voyage to London in 1871 carrying all manner of interesting items including wool, sperm whale oil, bark, leather, and sundries including tree-nails and bones totalling 19,080 pounds. On arrival in the River Thames, the general consensus, 'she was a splendid piece of architecture.'

You'll also see a display case in the corner, housing an original 1970s Alexander's Restaurant menu. Anyone for a Captain Bayley's Porterhouse for \$3.30 followed by a Tasmanian and imported cheese board for \$1.10?

Beyond the window, notice the fountain.

This is the original water feature from day dot, the centrepiece for many a wedding snap and although re-positioned, retains its early elegance.

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“ *Dire Straits
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*If you were to be
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Alexander's Restaurant in the 70s.

ALEXANDER'S RESTAURANT

In the 1970s, Lenna was the epitome of the era's style, with décor and furnishings to rival the most fashionable five star hotel in the country.

Think red and gold flecked wall paper in Alexander's Restaurant and finger tips dancing across a grand piano.

Dire Straits booked the restaurant out for dinner after their Hobart Concert in 1987. If you were to be seen in Hobart, Alexander's was the place.

All fashions of the 70s aside, this dining room was once divided in two. At the eastern end was the original dining room, and the western end, a day nursery for the little ones. It could be assumed not all lunches were a relaxing affair! The small room adjacent to the dining room was a study – perhaps fitting 'time-out quarters?'

You are standing in the oldest part of the Lenna building



ALEXANDER'S TERRACE

Step onto the terrace and imagine uninterrupted views down to the bustling waterfront.

This was the original entrance of the Bayley House.

Underfoot are hand-laid tiles, each one hand cut and individually laid with precision. In front of you is a grand staircase.

Just one of the stones weighs in at 450 kilograms but despite its sturdy foundations, the ivy-laden façade

collapsed in heavy winds during 2014 to reveal a slender layering of lime used in its original construction.

It now stands proudly once more, the lime traded with steel rod reinforcement.

Wander down onto the lawn and look back to view the original features of the Bayley House.



MILLYVALE ST

RECEPTION

NO PARKING



“ *It is rumoured Harriet committed suicide off one of the terraces but little evidence exists of this.*



The original Bayley House and fountain; these dormer windows still visible on top of Lenna.

HOTEL KITCHEN

Alexander's Restaurant and the current hotel kitchen form Captain James Bayley's original home.

Bayley, a whaling merchant, was born in 1823 and sailed with his brother Charles in the barque 'Fortitude' to Tasmania.

He requested that his pre-1860s-built home not be demolished, therefore Lenna was carefully built around his original residence. Lenna was erected in stages, construction beginning in 1874 and completed in 1880.

Bayley sold the land and home to his business partner Alexander McGregor who married Bayley's sister Harriet. It is

rumoured Harriet committed suicide off one of the terraces but little evidence exists of this.

More importantly, she was a lady remembered for her kindness to those less fortunate.

According to her death notice, "the tidings of her death caused a feeling of deep and general regret throughout the colony, and it was felt that in her death, the poor had lost a kind and considerate friend."

Sadly, she died before Lenna was completed.



Lenna taking shape in stages; notice the original Bayley House left of the new Lenna.



A great aerial imago of Lenna..



Up the garden path to Lenna.

THE GARDENS

Lenna's grounds were far from ordinary.

In fact, regularly the public were invited for gentle strolls and enjoyment.

Folk of the colony would arrive in the finest wares and enjoy the towering pines, established gardens and later the rarity of a tennis court. Games of croquet were a popular pastime and as evidenced in fiercely contested black

and white photographs, dressing the part was key.

During earlier days there was also a large conservatory off the eastern end of Lenna.

The garden played host to countless wedding vows – the fountain a tinkling reminder of memories forged on this Battery Point hill.



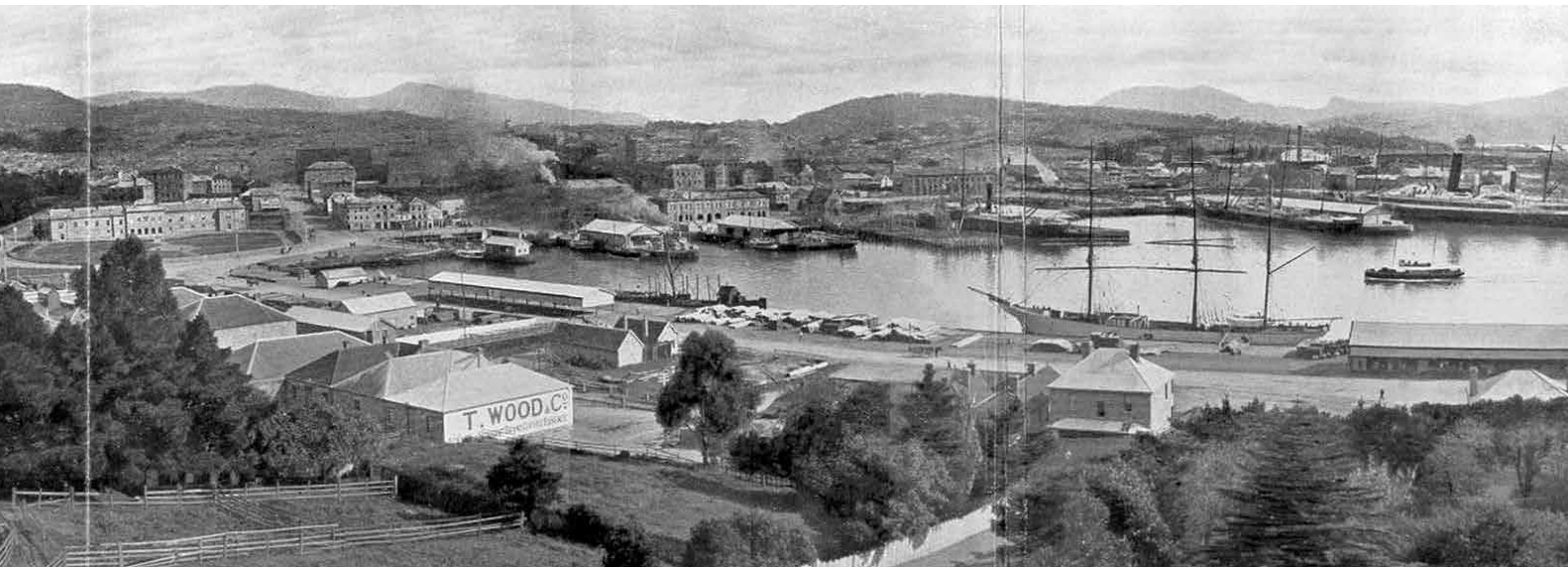
THE STAIRCASE

Run your hand up the imposing timber balustrade – said to have come all the way from London.

Underneath, notice repetitious patterns of wrought iron, cast at a nearby foundry in Battery Point. This is a staircase that's carried the weight of generations without falter.

As you climb, note the decorative window to your left, once an outside wall prior to Lenna's expansion.

Also trapped in time on this staircase is a framed morsel of wall paper - an original piece from when Lenna was built.



Alexander McGregor's unobstructed view over Hobart and the River Derwent.

McGREGOR ROOM

If ever there was a King of Hobart, this would have been his room.

He'd have woken in this original master bedroom to uninterrupted River Derwent views that swept across to Old Hobart Town. The commanding terrace would have been an appropriate place to gauge the morning's temperature and observe wharf happenings over a cup of servant-poured tea.

Today, it's a function room with bar, but this bar nook was once Alexander's walk-in robe. Being a notable man of his day required the appropriate threads and wardrobe commitment.

Might we add, years later when this room was occupied by Anthony Ashbolt's

mother Muriel, as a widow she used to keep a little ladies' pistol by her bedside.

One night someone broke in and she got her tiny little pistol out and chased him down the road to the silos. She held him there until he was arrested – making the papers for her courage.

A strong woman, raising two children herself, she explored the world often alone and loved exciting places like Asia and Rio that in those days a woman 'shouldn't visit.'

But she didn't care for what she was supposed to do this pistol-wielding past resident of Lenna.

“ *If ever there was a King of Hobart, this would have been his room.*

He'd have woken in this original master bedroom to uninterrupted River Derwent views that swept across to Old Hobart Town.



RUNNYMEDE ROOM

Unfortunately there is little information on the Runnymede room. It may have been used as a formal lounge or sitting room for afternoon visitors.

As with many buildings of early Hobart Town, some details of this former family mansion remain untold.



“ According to another former resident, Anthony Ashbolt set up a little electric train set in the loft/attic area – cutting little holes in the doors upstairs and the train set occupied the entire floor.



OFFICES ON THE SECOND FLOOR

Notice how the quarters are decidedly more petite on this level?

It's because you've entered the former servant's quarters. This is where the cook, housemaid, parlour maid, chauffeur, 'useful maid,' nurse and gardener once dwelled. Literature recounts that during the depression servants were reduced from eight to three, making life rather more hectic at the Lenna mansion.

A novel intercom of sorts, the servant call bells were pushed downstairs, causing little bells to ring in the roof cavity behind each servant's room.

Although the system doesn't work today, the original wiring and connections are still found throughout Lenna.

As tempting as it is, don't be surprised if servants are unresponsive to your button pushing or dial 9 for a modern version of assistance.

According to Elizabeth Ashbolt, a former resident: "Life at Lenna in the thirties was entirely different to family life these days. Once out of the nursery and meals

with Nanny, all meals were served in the dining room by the Parlour Maid, who wore a uniform of a black dress, with a white lacy cap and apron."

"Parlour Maids were addressed by their surname and housemaids by their Christian name. I was spoken to as Miss Elizabeth and my mother as m'Lady. The Maid handed round the food for you to help yourself and you were supposed to eat everything [think of the starving people].... Beds were made and the washing done for you....but of course the washing was all done by hand in the big laundry troughs and copper and was a major days work."

"We sent out the very big items to the laundry at the convent where girls who had no homes or had sinned in some way, worked."

According to another former resident, Anthony Ashbolt, set up a little electric train set in the loft/attic area – cutting little holes in the doors upstairs and the trainset occupied the entire floor. It even delivered cups of tea on occasion!





A certificate of discharge for a seaman who crewed on the Harriet McGregor.

McGREGOR'S LOOKOUT

Want to enjoy Hobart's original best view?

Climb the rungs to Alexander's celerestorey lookout (turret), where he kept vigil with telescope to his eye, for ships forging along his main trade route between Hobart and London.

It's hard to imagine, but when ships were 80 days out of London, he'd commence his watch down The Channel.

The view from Alexander's tower made him a very wealthy man. He could see the marine board's flags at Mount Nelson, signalling the ship's origin and if it was a trader, he sent his watermen at once to the cargo. He became a very prosperous merchant, later working from his building in town that today is home to Hobart's GPO.

Wander through Princes Park behind Lenna and you'll find the original cottage of the Battery Point Signal Station. The lookout on top of Lenna also had a semaphore for signalling ships. Pull up a patch of grass and imagine Alexander awaiting his precious cargo late into the night, in a tower built from one of his ship's bridges.

Guests say they can feel it sway even on a still day – climb the ladder and see what you feel.

It is rumoured that late in the night Alexander's footsteps can be heard in the hallways, and his wife Harriet paces the turret, also known as 'Widow's Walk.' Alexander McGregor died August 4, 1896 at the age of 75.



Lenna's opulent room decor in the 70s.

LENNA OF HOBART

In 1971, Innkeepers Limited purchased the property and began working on the new wing of Lenna in 1973.

The brief was to ensure Lenna's old-world charm would remain, blending with this new first-class wing.

Architect Ermin Smrekar of Melbourne was tasked with this extension and today Lenna remains an Innkeepers Hotel.



THE PENTHOUSES

Remaining true to Lenna's luxurious personality, two Penthouses joined the fold in 2007.

Offering a level of exclusivity and opulence unseen on the Hobart landscape, the penthouses have since drawn the likes of Arab sheikhs and private jet-hailing grandchildren of some of America's richest

families, Royalty, rock stars and senior Government officials.

In more recent years, Judy Nunn's historical novel Tiger Men was largely penned in a Lenna penthouse, and those who read it will appreciate the Hobart views interweaved into her fictional masterpiece.

Mrs. Alex. McGregor.

With deep regret we have to record the death of Mrs. McGregor, the wife of the well-known ship-owner, Mr. Alex. McGregor, Battery Point, which occurred on Oct. 23, 1878. Outside the family, the relatives, and intimate friends, the most poignant regret will perhaps be felt among that humble class whom what the newspaper says will perhaps never reach. In Mrs. McGregor the poor have lost a kind benefactor. Essentially retiring and unobtrusive in her manners, hers was the true nobility that, in the sorrows and privations of others, always took a part; and yet, except the recipients of her bounty, few knew the good she did. Nor was that bounty indiscriminate. Her heart was open to all, but to the really deserving she was a friend indeed. Of her it may be truly said, she went about doing good. She has been long in declining health. Her last appearance in public was on the occasion of the launch of the latest addition to her husband's fleet, the Loongana; but it was not till Sunday, 29th inst., that all hope of her recovery was given up. The tidings of her death caused a feeling of deep and general regret throughout the colony, and it was felt that in her death, the poor had lost a kind and considerate friend. In her own circle, among her friends and acquaintances, they who knew her best esteemed her most.

