

### THE MISSING MANTELPIECE!

The so called music room at Fortuna has been variously used by different elements over the years and is now occupied by the Orderly Room. It was one of the earlier parts of the building to be constructed but was, it seems extended and altered during George Lansell's Time It was described in the Bendigo Advertiser in August of 1904 of being a room of dimensions of 52 feet long, 21 feet wide and 16 feet high. It goes on to describe the room in some detail but in particular, it describes a mantelpiece like this: *'One of the features of the room is a handsome mantle and over mantle of beautifully figured mahogany. It is richly carved and moulded, and stands over 12 feet high. It has many bevelled glass mirrors of unique design, and carved panels and festoons The carved panel in the front is symbolic of music'*

The same mantle piece was described in the Melbourne Sun in 1940 when Fortuna was in the hands of a Mr and Mrs Nott in even more flamboyant terms: *'The room has a mantle piece which cost 400 pounds when it was erected and would cost 1200 pounds today. A craftsman took two years to carve it from the now extinct Indian mahogany.*

Tom Chisholm remembers it in these terms:

*Of special interest in this room was an enormous mantle piece on the right hand centre of the wall (near the entrance to the Glass House) It was a magnificent piece stretching from floor level to the ceiling. It was later removed and sent to Melbourne for who knows what. It would have been a show piece now.*

We can't help but be cynical and wonder who's home this now graces or maybe what mess? The architects sketch may help you remember. Does anyone know what happened to it?

MANTLE & OVERMANTLE

FOR MUSIC ROOM.  
NEAR ALL MIRRORS BEVELLED

1/2" TO 1" H. FOOT.

With Bebe  
Applied  
with Bebe  
Bebe Co.

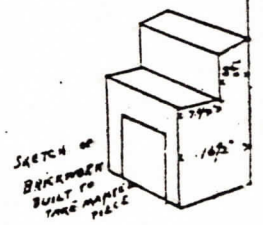
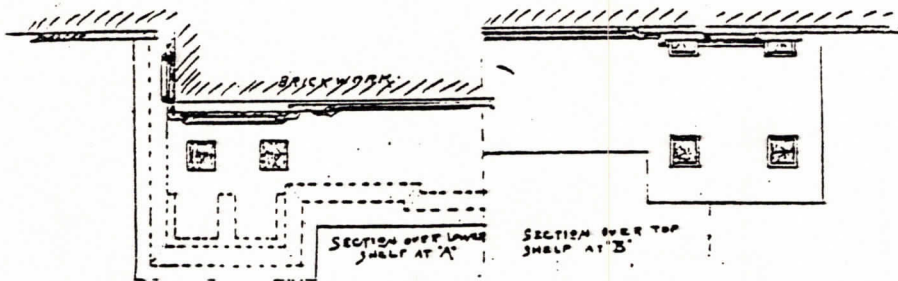
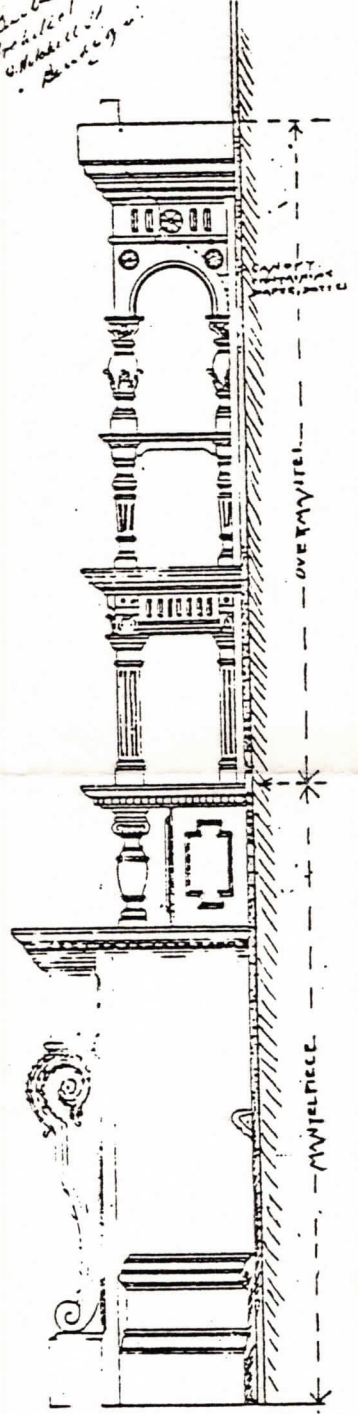
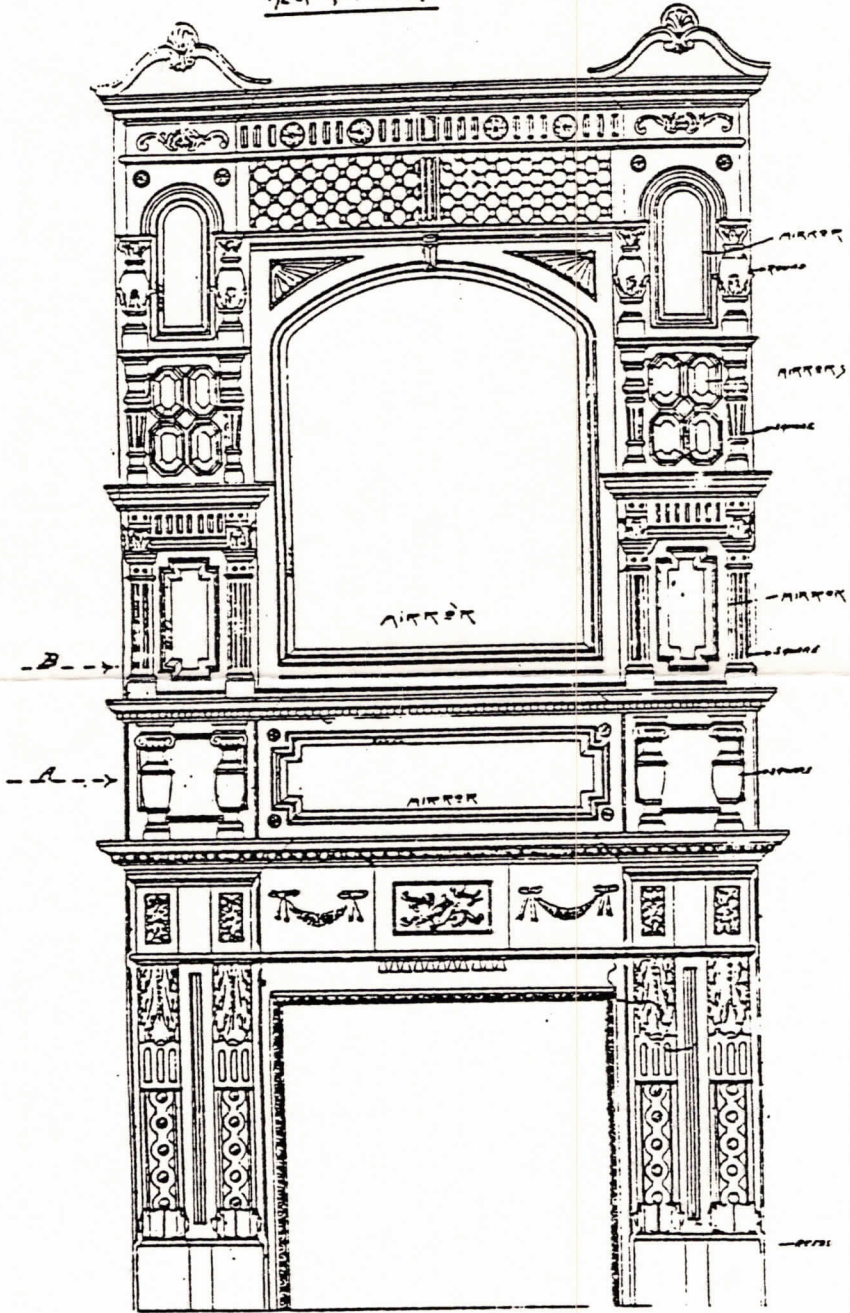


Fig. 56 Music room mantelpiece and mirror, by W. Beebe, 1904.